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# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER Generally fine except for the south-east

40p (IR 45p)

## US abandoned us, say Kurds

Pro-Saddam leader  
expresses bitterness  
after bombing

By Hugh Pope

Salahuddin — The leader of the Kurdish group which has allied itself with President Saddam Hussein, angrily criticised the United States' missile attack on southern Iraq yesterday, and said that he had asked for Baghdad's support only because the US had abandoned the Kurds.

Masoud Barzani, whose Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces have been fighting alongside Saddam Hussein's forces in northern Iraq, said that his organisation had no choice but to side with Baghdad.

The KDP called on Saddam

Kurdistan. But Mr Barzani said that the missile attack was "just part of President Bill Clinton's election campaign".

Looking tense and tired after a weekend in which his forces collaborated with Baghdad to capture the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Arbil, Mr Barzani said that his faction had become impatient with empty US promises to assist Kurdish autonomy. "We are angry with America. For two years the Americans have been playing with us," he told a news conference at his hilltop headquarters at Salahuddin, just outside Arbil.

The US launched missile attacks on military targets in southern Iraq in response to Baghdad's moves to evict the PUK, from Arbil. Jalal Talabani, the PUK leader, told Reuters news agency yesterday that Iraqi troops and tanks were still deployed in the region. Mr Talabani's party had held Arbil since 1994, when an uneasy Kurdish alliance collapsed in fighting.

KDP officials say that the only Western diplomat who visits them with any regularity is the much-liked Frank Baker from the British Embassy in Ankara in Turkey. High-powered American diplomats dropped by infrequently, made threats and left soon afterwards, making little lasting impact, they said.

'If iniquity were the trigger for air attacks, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks'  
— Robert Fisk  
page 9

'The missile strikes are an expression of frustration and impotence'  
— Patrick Cockburn  
page 12

for help, he said, in response to a threat of an alliance between their rivals in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Iran. Mr Barzani said he appealed not only to the US but to Britain, France, Germany, Turkey and regional states when they felt that the PUK was getting Iranian rocket and artillery support in a series of attacks and incursions since late July.

The US launched missile attacks on southern Iraq yesterday to punish Baghdad for Saddam Hussein's armoured attacks in



### The American attack on Iraq

■ The United States fired 27 cruise missiles in response to Iraqi attacks on the Kurds. The missiles were fired from B-52 bombers and warships in the Gulf at military targets in southern Iraq.  
■ "Our objectives are limited but clear," said President Bill Clinton. "To make Saddam pay a price for the latest act of brutality, reducing his ability to threaten his neighbours and America's interests."  
■ US Defence Secretary William Perry said Iraq posed a "clear and present danger" to neighbouring countries.  
■ The US extended a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, and said that a United Nations plan to allow Iraq to sell oil to buy food could not proceed.  
■ Iraq said five people were killed and 19 wounded. President Saddam Hussein urged his air force to attack allied planes.  
■ Russia hit out at the US, saying the strikes were launched to help Mr Clinton win November's presidential elections.  
■ "The United States has our full support," John Major said, "and I hope and believe others will support them as well."  
■ Britain said that it had allowed US planes to refuel at American-operated facilities on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.  
■ Oil prices surged, but then fell back with Brent crude hitting a post-Gulf war high of \$23.50 (£15.00) a barrel, slipping back to \$22.04.

was a response to our appeal." The response from Baghdad was Iraqi armour and artillery support for their joint attack on Arbil on Saturday. The new atmosphere is symbolised by what travellers from Arbil said were two flags flying side-by-side over the city's landmark castle: that of the KDP and that of Iraq.

The situation in Arbil was said to be tense yesterday, and the KDP still forbade foreign journalists to visit it because they said they were still hunting down armed PUK fighters. A few people could be found leaving the city, but KDP checkpoints were not allowing any mass exodus.

The fighting on Saturday was quickly over. The KDP says that it lost seven Peshmarga guerrillas while Iraq, a 25-year-old KDP fighter, said he saw 60 PUK Peshmarga bodies in a hospital courtyard. He said the first line of fighters were the KDP's main trained regiment and added that about half of the Iraqi units with them belonged to the Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen-e Khalq. Few Iraqis went further than the parliament building on the ring road, he said.

The KDP officially says that all the Iraqis are now out of the city. It says it arrested some 2,000 PUK members, including the former prime minister Fawaz Mawson, and had already released 1,500 of them. The party said that its men were still searching for Hero Talabani, the wife of the PUK leader, who was in Arbil at the time of the attack.

"I'm quite frightened," said Ronaq Rafiq Jawfi, a 25-year-old schoolteacher who had left Arbil to stay with relatives in Salahuddin. "There is still the sound of shooting at night." The PUK, having retreated rapidly from Arbil, immediately cut all electricity supplies to the city. This is having severe repercussions on the supply of water for its one million people. At his hilltop headquarters, fitfully supplied with power from a sub-standard generator, Mr Barzani said no formal talks

had opened on the future relations of the KDP with Saddam Hussein. But, he noted, Saddam was still the President of Iraq. "We have not separated from the rest of Iraq. We love our Kurdish flag but also there is a central flag," Mr Barzani said. "If Iraq is ready to recognise the rights of the Kurdish people, if the Iraqis can meet our demands, we can make an agreement." The change of sentiment has struck a chord among many of the Kurds ruled by Mr Barzani's

KDP, which now controls two of the three provinces of Iraqi Kurdistan. Worn down by five years of deprivation, blockade, internal fighting and fading Western interest, Iraqi Kurds are more and more ready to discuss getting back together with the Iraqi central government. "The dream of an independent Kurdistan is gone," Mohsen, an Iraqi Kurdish teacher, said. "There were many who believed in it a few years ago, but now, after these wars, people are much more realistic."

## Record haul of rhino horn is seized

MICHAEL STREETER

The world's largest haul of illegally held rhinoceros horn was seized in London yesterday in what was heralded as a major breakthrough in combating the international poaching trade in endangered species.

The discovery of 105 white and black rhino horns worth £2.8m in crates in lock-up news garages in Kensington followed a joint undercover operation between officers from the South East Regional Crime Squad and the RSPCA.

An RSPCA official de-

scribed the discovery as "absolutely fantastic". Two men and two women, all from the Cambridge area, were arrested as part of Operation Morelle, shortly after 3pm yesterday. One of the women was released without charge last night.

Experts believe the horns are from rhinos in Southern Africa, though many of them may have been stockpiled over a period of more than a year.

It is thought that London was being used as a staging post for the horns — with the market likely to be the Far East and

Middle East. The largest horn was valued at £96,000. The RSPCA's chief inspector, Terry Spamer, said: "The white rhinos we found today represent more than 1 per cent of the entire world population of white rhinos and there is enormous cruelty involved in the poaching of these animals. This would have flooded the UK market."

Roy Clark, regional coordinator of the South East Regional Crime Squad, added: "This is an excellent example of good co-operation between agencies."

A spokeswoman for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) — which has recently had two of the rhinos that it supports killed by poachers — said: "This is obviously a breakthrough in the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife which threatens many species, including the rhinos, with extinction."

In addition to its use as a supposed aphrodisiac, ground rhino horn is used in many Chinese communities for medicinal purposes. The horns are also valued as dagger handles in Middle East countries like

Yemen where they are known as jambiayas. According to the WWF, the black rhinoceros population has dropped to just over 2,400, with most of those that remain being found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The white rhinoceros population is estimated at about 7,500 — with the vast majority in South Africa.

In recent years, the populations of both species have existed in mostly protected areas, leading to speculation that the current haul comes from pre-

viously poached stocks or even old trophies that may have languished on game hunters' walls for years.

A spokesman for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) said it was studying the development.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment said the discovery was a good example of cross-agency partnership and added that the United Kingdom was committed to the protection of endangered species under the international convention.

## Q: What's the difference between a politician and a psychopath? A: None

JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

Politicians and stockbrokers share many of the same characteristics as criminal psychopaths. The only difference is that career high-flyers usually stay within the law. Some could be defined as "successful psychopaths", according to Lisa Marshall, a psychologist at Glasgow's Caledonian University.

In a three-year research project that involved interviewing 105 long-term offenders in Scottish prisons, she discovered that upbringing appeared to be an important factor in whether a child became a psychopath, as well as genetic make-up.

To discover which offenders were psychopaths she questioned them and compared their answers to a widely used list of 20 characteristics of a psychopath. The annual confer-

ence of the British Psychological Society's criminological and legal division were told. To be considered a psychopath, they needed to display a number of the 20 core characteristics. Ms Marshall added that people in some high-powered careers, such as stockbroking and politics — she did not rule out journalists — had enough of the 20 characteristics to be defined as psychopaths.

She said: "Successful psy-

chopaths included people with careers such as stockbrokers, where a lot of actions was happening and where they had a lot of power. They have to be quite cold and callous. You could say a politician. [They] might be in control and have power. They are risk-takers. They have the characteristics of psychopaths but without the criminal intent." She added that psychopaths made good fraudsters.

Of the sample of 105 inmates,

50 were psychopaths — including murderers and rapists — and the remainder were "normal" criminals.

By questioning them about their childhood and checking the answers with official records, she discovered that psychopaths had similar experiences when young. Her results showed that most of them had parents who disciplined their children poorly and were inconsistent in the way they treated them. For example, they would severely beat them for bunking off school on one day and laugh about it the next.

"The children never knew where they stood," said Ms Marshall.

Parents were often quite hostile towards their children who, in return, were negative about them. Neglect was also common. School was found to be a boring and bad experience for most psychopaths.

### Is the person next to you a psychopath?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Tick as appropriate.</li> <li>□ Selfishness</li> <li>□ Callousness</li> <li>□ Remorseless use of others</li> <li>□ Pathological lying</li> <li>□ Glibness, conning</li> <li>□ Lack of remorse</li> <li>□ Shallowness</li> <li>□ Failure to accept responsibility for actions</li> <li>□ Extreme sense of self-worth</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Chronically unstable</li> <li>□ Anti-social</li> <li>□ Socially deviant lifestyle</li> <li>□ Needs constant stimulation</li> <li>□ Parasitic lifestyle</li> <li>□ Childhood problems</li> <li>□ Juvenile delinquency</li> <li>□ Irresponsibility</li> <li>□ Unrealistic long-term goals</li> <li>□ Promiscuity</li> </ul> |
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## news

Major  
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Labour  
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tax'ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

A revolt by English MPs could threaten the £8bn tartan levy - London's bill for Scottish public spending - if Labour sets up an Edinburgh parliament, John Major warned yesterday.

The Prime Minister told a Tory fundraising dinner in Glasgow that Labour's devolution plans could dismantle the Westminster Parliament, break up Britain, and "destroy democracy." But he also warned: "Overall public spending in Scotland exceeds the amount raised in Scotland by over £8bn. So why do people want to alter a system that so obviously works in Scotland's favour?"

Mr Major said it was unrealistic to think that English MPs would stand aside while a Scottish parliament cut taxes. "I have yet to hear how English MPs might be persuaded to continue spending more cash in Scotland than on their own constituencies, only to see it spent in subsidising tax cuts north of the border. It's a laughable proposition."

If English MPs proposed to cut Scottish spending, the Prime Minister went on, the Edinburgh parliament's tax-raising powers would only bring in £390m: a fraction of the £8bn current transfer. "Where would the shortfall come from," Mr Major asked, "higher taxes or fewer public services?"

The Prime Minister also warned that Labour's plans on the social chapter and minimum wage threatened to open the "floodgates to a whole raft of expensive burdens to business."

But at a Labour conference for business in London today, Tony Blair and French colleagues will deliver strong reassurance about their intentions.

The Labour leader will tell an audience that includes representatives of more than 90 of the country's leading companies that the traditional relationship between business and the Tories is "unhealthy," and that Labour's links with business had improved and would improve still further.

Labour is this week sending out copies of a 28-page "business prospectus" of party policy to 10,000 business people, seeking to reassure them about its proposals in the teeth of "Tory scares" about the social chapter and minimum wage.

David Blunkett, Labour's education and employment spokesman, said last night that Labour would consult with business on the level of the minimum wage, and the implementation of existing social chapter directives.



Prickly subject: The illegal £2.8m cache of rhino horn seized by police working with the RSPCA in London yesterday

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

## Portillo under fire as MoD homes buyer is announced

CHRIS BLACKHURST  
Westminster Correspondent

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday sparked a welter of allegations about lack of patriotism, sleaze and "Tory fat cats lining their pockets" when the MoD announced the preferred bidder for its £1.6bn married-quarters houses.

The winning Annington Homes consortium includes Nomura, the Japanese bank, Amec, the construction group which has made rich pickings from previous privatisations, and Royal Bank of Scotland, and Hambros, two banks with close links with the Conservative Party.

Annington made no secret of its intention to profit from the deal. Sir Tommy Macpherson, the consortium chairman, said it would be seeking a stock market listing in "five to seven years."

He refused to be drawn on the expected size of the profit from the share sale, but, if past experience is anything to go by, it will be considerable and will provoke a political outcry.

The Independent yesterday revealed that Amec has made

over £30m from the resale of part of the Government's Property Services Agency.

Annington executives will now sit down with defence ministry officials to thrash out the final details on the housing sell-off. It is expected to see Annington agree to pay £1.6bn for

57,700 homes. The Ministry of Defence will lease back the bulk of the properties from Annington under a 200-year deal.

Some £100m will be released from the sale to upgrade those homes, while 2,700 of the empty quarters will be sold off immediately. More properties will

be sold over a 25-year period. Most immediate anger was directed at the involvement of Nomura, Arthur Titherton, secretary of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said: "I am almost speechless. It seems to me at times that certain senior mem-

bers of the Government have no feelings about the past. The Japanese are succeeding to do with money what they failed to do with arms. This decision is just another nail in the coffin of conscience."

In response to the criticism, Nomura had already taken a lower profile, and Sir Tommy was stressing yesterday that Annington is a British company with predominantly British shareholders.

Last year, Amec, chaired by Sir Alan Cockshaw, made profits of £16m - with Sir Alan's pay package soaring from £235,755 to £396,673. That was before the huge gain from the resale of the former PSA arm, Building and Property Management Services. At the same time, Amec is making inroads into other areas of Government business, recently winning the £150m contract to build offices for 13,000 civil servants in Newcastle.

In choosing Annington, though, Mr Portillo did at least avoid another backlash. If he had chosen another shortlisted bidder - a consortium involving John Beckwith, a Tory party fundraiser - the political row would have been enormous.

The original sale agreement required the Government's approval if the company was to resell within five years. A spokesman for the Department of

the Environment said: "We are content that the sale will not affect the services the company provides, and that the guarantees given to the Government will be upheld."

The company, now called Building and Property Management Services, manages buildings and building projects, mainly for the Ministry of Defence, including its main building in Whitehall.

The Government spokesman rejected the charge that an excessive profit had been made: "The company that is being sold now is a very different company from that sold three years ago. It has new clients and the whole company has been restructured and streamlined."

deal as a "scandal" which proved the company had been seriously undervalued. It emerged yesterday that the resale had been approved by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The company was sold by the Government for £11.4m in 1993, and sold again 10 days ago for £84.6m. Dr Frischmann's group has so far paid only half a million pounds, with the remainder of the purchase price payable by the company's new owners, CVC Capital Partners.

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## Some sound ideas, but don't forget liberalism, Paddy

IT IS the ultimate test of political utility: if the Liberal Democrats did not exist, would we have to invent them? Fortunately for Paddy Ashdown, the answer is emphatically Yes. Without them, there would be a liberal-shaped hole at the heart of the nation. But, by the shades of Gladstone, Keynes and Beveridge, that does not stop Paddy talking a lot of guff. He presented yesterday's wide-ranging policy document as "the most radical repositioning and recasting of a party's agenda I think we have seen in the last five or 10 years".

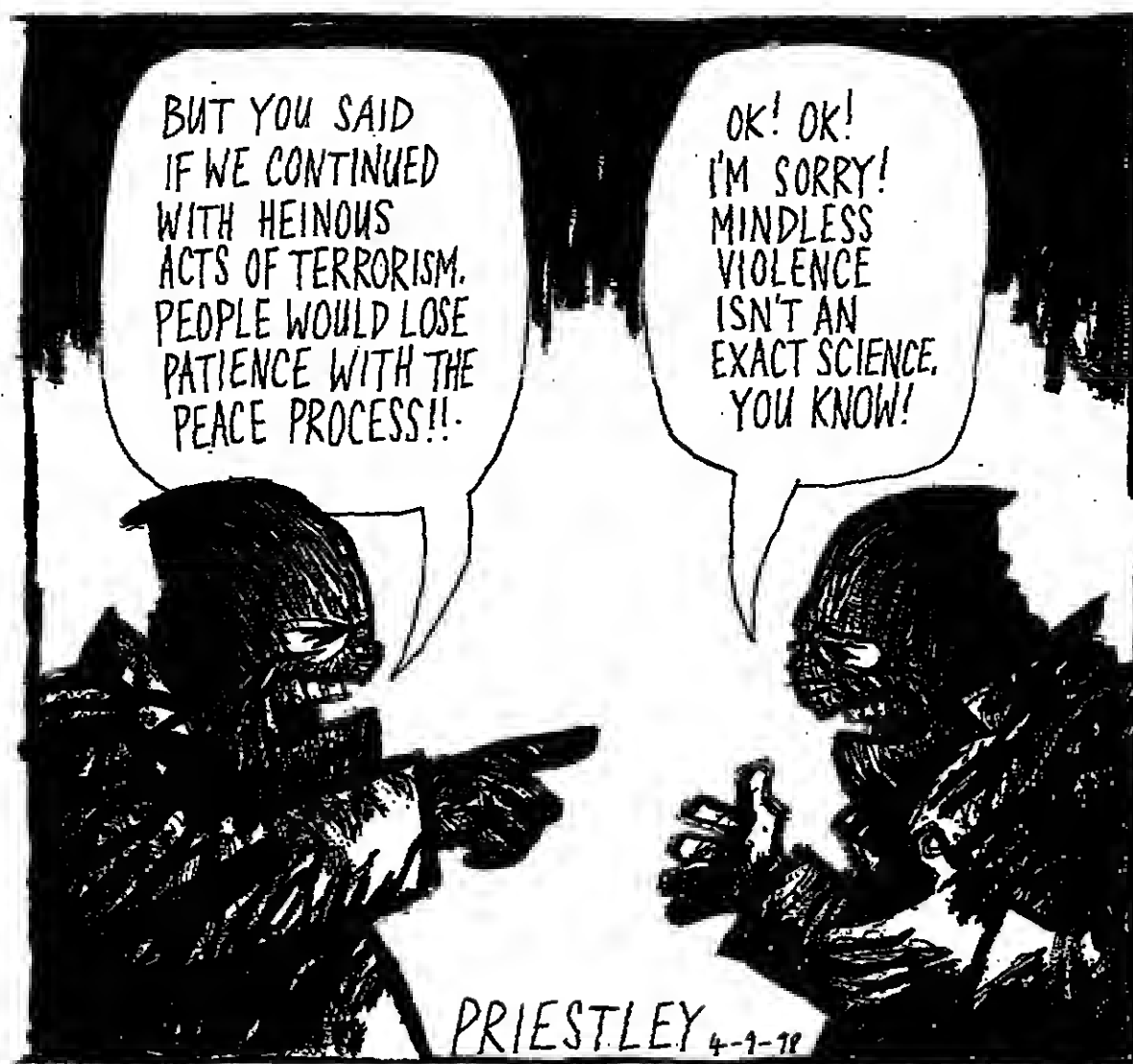
It was a claim as baseless as it was unnecessary. Whatever we think of the merits of Mr Blair's cult of the New, and his re-writing of Labour's constitution, his is a hard act of repositioning and recasting to follow. And Mr Ashdown should not try to follow it. Liberalism has a past of which it should be proud, and which provides it with a strong claim to the future. Mr Ashdown does not need to go around ditching and dumping in order to produce a party committed to the free market, to Europe, to the environment and to a more democratic constitution. The Liberal Democrat party and its predecessors have long been those things.

We should, too, take yesterday's policy document with a pinch of salt - or, rather, as a pinch of salt. Its function should be to add flavour to the political debate. After all, this is less an old-fashioned composite resolution and more an American-style "platform" for the Lib Dem party convention in Brighton later this month.

The proposals on tax are useful, not because it is feasible to abolish income tax on everyone on, or below, average earnings. It was the case after the war that income tax was only paid by the better-off, but the shape of income distribution has changed since then. Nevertheless, it is worth asking the question: is our tax system progressive enough?

For the vast bulk of the population, combined marginal rates of tax and National Insurance rise (with a dip in the middle) from 33 per cent to 40 per cent. There is a strong case for cutting taxes on income at the lower end, and raising revenue instead from taxes on energy and pollution, with protection for those on state benefits - a case the Liberal Democrats are well placed to make, with both Labour and the Tories prisoners of history in this matter.

As for the other new gizmos in the document, the gist of the policy on pensions is right in suggesting personalised pensions for all but, as Frank Field found, the



details can be diabolical. While the idea of "neighbourhood committees" to run schools, instead of local councils, sounds like the sort of charter for social misfits and busybodies that such well-meaning attempts at local democracy often become.

However, the real value of the Lib Dems is not as a glorified think-tank but as advocates of an ideology. Yesterday, Mr Ashdown trotted out his by-now standard evasion of the question of whether he was moving the party to the left or the right. He says he is moving the party forwards, "out ahead of British politics". It sounds good, but it is meaningless. He should be moving his party towards genuine liberalism.

His consistent defence of civil liberties, his opposition to censorship, his advocacy of our rights as citizens rather than subjects, should all be applauded. Unfortunately, his actions have not always lived up to his words. On Wednesday night, for example, Lib Dem MPs should have been voting against the Government's rushed and unnecessary Terrorism and Conspiracy Bill.

When it comes to the Government's failure to enact Freedom of Information law, and its decision to arrest David Shayler, Mr Ashdown has been curiously muted. His desire to secure a historic reform of the electoral system is understandable, but his pandering to Mr Blair should not be allowed to obscure the liberal message.

## Stop selling off our honours

IT IS now more obvious than ever that when the Prevention of Abuses Act put an end to the scandal of Lloyd George's sale of honours, it simply drove the practice underground rather than eradicated it. Richard Branson has told *The Independent* that the last government hinted at an honour if he would chip in to the Conservative party's coffers. This is the kind of direct quo in return for quid which was always suspected of the Tories, but never proven. Scrutiny of the published Tory donations from companies showed a remarkable degree of correlation with the award of knighthoods and peerages to their bosses. Labour's much greater openness last weekend about its source of funds revealed a similar, if less strong, correlation.

There are two solutions. One would be to revert to the pre-1925 position, only to remit the funds raised to the Exchequer rather than to the Prime Minister's party. Now that the DVLC has realised that it can save public money by flogging off unusual combinations of numbers and letters, the Treasury could move in to realise the value of the long lists of Ks, OBEs, MBEs and so on, which are currently handed out free of charge. The going rate for peerages before 1925 was £100,000, for baronetcies £40,000 and knighthoods £10,000. Gordon Brown could pay off the National Debt in no time if those were updated to today's prices.

However, that might be thought a little demeaning to the ideas of merit, not to mention honour, which are supposed to be embodied in the honours system.

The other solution would be to abolish knighthoods and rewards for political or royal service, and to give responsibility for the handing-out of honours of equal worth to an independent body. The careful gradation of imperial orders is an incentive to the worst of British snobbery: there should be a single mark of public respect - the British Medal, say. It could be awarded in the Queen's name, on condition that the monarchy give up any pretensions to political power - or "per-rogative" as George V used to misspell it when complaining to Lloyd George about his policy. That way, long-serving lollipop ladies and heroic police officers could be recognised without the honours lists being clogged up with time servers and party funders.

Membership of the House of Lords, similarly, should be allocated by an independent commission - to the extent that it is not decided by the rather more exacting mechanism of democratic election.

Fifteen prime ministers after Lloyd George, the old rascal's clean-cut successor has failed to attack the corrupt honours system with his vaunted radicalism.

## A modernised monarchy? I don't think so - just look at poor Harry

THOSE POOR, poor boys must be left alone. This was the sentiment when Diana died. Her sons must be left to develop as "normally" as possible. The gentlemen of the press agreed. At the funeral we were asked not to look at Harry and William, even though millions watched those kids walk for what seemed like miles behind their mother's coffin.

Prince Harry, however, is back on the front pages. He is not being left alone, and I feel as sorry for him as I ever did. The boy has not only got to cope with his loss, but is now being sent off to Eton. This is apparently considered what's best for him. When I look at this teenager in a tweed jacket with leather elbow patches, I could weep. What other 13-year-olds do you know who wear "light sports jackets"? What are they doing to this kid who, when he changes out of his sports jacket will have to change into a penguin suit?

He will, we are lovingly informed, be referred to as an "F-4". He will have an armed detective sleeping next door, and he will, according to past survivors of Eton, probably feel so intimidated by the older boys that he will not be able to eat anything. He will follow in the footsteps of his older brother, who was so nervous that when asked what religion he was, had to be told that he was C of E. Perhaps his father had never told him that this was yet another institution that he was head of.

Though Harry has lost his mother, he is being sent to an establishment where women will be few and far between. There is, of course, "the dame" of Manor House who he will have to call Ma'am. Last year, *The*

*Daily Telegraph*, writing of the plight of Prince William, said that: "No boarding school is better equipped than Eton to offer consolation and support to a boy who has lost his mother." I beg to differ. For a start, inspectors from other independent schools have recently commented on the shortage of women in senior positions on the teaching staff. Fewer than 10 out of 146 means that the pupils have "only limited opportunities to witness adult females in key roles in the school". Eton prides itself on its pastoral care, but please don't try telling me that knowing a few "dames" amounts to anything resembling normality.

This may be the Nineties, when some people are talking about the end of the age of deference, yet, for all the baseball caps and chats with various Spice Girls, the young princes have entered a system that effectively bypasses the 20th century. I am well aware that putting children into care and calling it education is a long time habit of the ruling classes, but please let us not pretend it has anything to do with a modern sensibility, which apparently the royals are now keen to convey.

Charles, who some would say was permanently traumatised by his experiences at Gordonstoun, could have made a stand about his own children's schooling, but when it comes to public school, we know that the sins of the fathers are invariably revisited upon their own sons. Those who are happy to tell of the dreadful abuse and loneliness they suffered, in what Orwell once called the "nurseries of empire", still feel compelled to inflict such experiences upon their own offspring.



SUZANNE MOORE

*Though Harry has lost his mother he will be sent to an establishment where women will be few and far between*

We have witnessed the efforts that the ageing, dithering, immensely sheltered Charles has made to be more touchy feely since the death of Diana. According to certain opinion polls, it has paid off. No one, not even me, is totally devoid of sympathy for this damaged specimen.

Yet, despite pronouncements from the palace, and despite the presence of spin doctors on fat cat salaries, what has the modernisation of the monarchy actually amounted to? The public reaction to Diana's death provoked a re-think. Not, you understand, a re-think about the reality of the monarchy, but a re-think about the way that reality is to be presented. "We have certainly learned lessons from the way the Princess carried out her engagements," a palace spokesman said. "We have tried to incorporate a greater informality into the planning of royal events." The

palace has also recognised Diana's unerring ability "at picking issues". But what is planned informality apart from an oxymoron? It appears to mean that the Queen has seen single parents, a pensioners' flat, a public house and a hamburger bar. Little else has changed. Even the Palace admits that when it comes to the Queen, a change of image has not occurred, but rather there has been "a fine tuning" of the way she is presented. This makes her sound like an old boiler, but obviously we all know the Queen is too far gone to alter much. Asking her to appear hip is as silly as expecting us to believe that Tony Blair is fundamentally cool.

Something though, is expected of Charles, and his faltering attempts to deliver a public persona slightly more in tune with the times seems to have fooled at least some of the people some of the time. Yet what has happened to Earl Spencer's pledge to continue to help bring up the boys in "the imaginative way" his sister had pioneered? There was, it must be said, a limit to Diana's imagination, for she presumably must have consented for Prince William to have been sent to Eton in the first place.

Now, as privilege drearily replicates itself in its institutionalised form, we must ask if any thing resembling modernisation has really occurred. The stilted efforts at the common touch have been left to the younger generation of royals, as if we might be persuaded that the products of this archaic institution are just like us. Sometimes they are. Fat, drunk, divorced, gay and miserable.

I'm afraid though that the sight of Harry in his "light sports jacket"

should remind us that, in others ways, these people are not like us at all. Not for them the nightmare of parental choice over schooling, or even the qualms that ordinary people might feel about single sex education, about not living with their own kids for much of the year or about handing over their emotional care-taking to employees. Instead, they are confident that an upbringing which promises "surrogate mothers" and sexual apartheid, which is broken only by the groups of suitable girls who are bussed in occasionally, is character forming.

Diana may have done some of this differently, but on the whole she went along with the programme. Her extraordinary ability was to make people feel she understood something of their lives, even when her own was so vastly different. Not one of the other royals has this gift, and nor is likely to happen if these awful traditions are carried on.

A year ago, we thought that if the monarchy did not modernise, it would be finished - a year later it has made concessions only in its style, not in its substance. Compassion for Harry and William is not enough to quell the demand for change. The monarchy should still be concerned, not at republican hatred, but at public indifference. The odd informal visit to the real world - the way the people of this country live now - only reinforces their distance from it.

What evidence is there that the firm has, in any serious way, become more modern? The Blairs have been appointed as favoured in-laws and, oh yes, Zara Phillips has got her tongue pierced. How radical.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You voted for a future different from the past. Now you must prove that the passion for reason and moderation can trump the power of extremes."  
Bill Clinton  
addressing the people of Northern Ireland

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A clash of doctrines is not a disaster - it is an opportunity."  
A N Whitehead,  
British philosopher



## WHO WOULD YOU TRUST TO HELP YOU IN A BREAKDOWN EMERGENCY?

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CAPITAL CONTROLS are being recognised as a respectable option for governments wanting an effective policy instrument to prevent further financial turbulence. Malaysia is the first affected Asian country to take the measures of exchange controls. Its decision should be welcomed as an effort to break through the maze of crises. If the Malaysian policies succeed, we can expect others to follow in its footsteps - if the IMF allows them to, that is. *The Star, Malaysia*

DOOMSDAY SCENARIOS for Malaysia are everywhere being drawn, the most common conclusion being that now Dr Mahathir has fenced the country off from the outside world, genuine investors will no longer bother with it. If Mahathir is using these drastic measures to put his house in order, before reopening to the outside world with stronger regulations in place, he may yet have the last laugh. Only time will tell. What matters most is that the regional financial turmoil

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Mahathir introduces exchange controls in Malaysian markets



which has taken a heavy toll will not bring about social disorder. The moves, contrary to IMF prescriptions, may be what the country needs at this stage. *Hong Kong Standard*

THE SHOCKING measures announced by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to peg the ringgit at a fixed rate to insulate the economy from further external

vulnerabilities, is hitting the nail right on the head. It is absolutely right to control currency speculation. The bold move will definitely strengthen the value of the ringgit and restore the economy's stability. *Sarawak Tribune, Malaysia*

CAN SUCH drastic and unorthodox measures stop the economy from sliding into a slump? The truth will be known in the critical days ahead. Dr Mahathir hopes that Malaysia can be sheltered from the

turbulence that has roiled the world's financial markets. But interference with the free movement of capital has its costs, and there is no certainty that the new measures will solve Malaysia's economic crisis. Everything depends on how the measures are implemented. Malaysia had better pray that they succeed. If not, there is much to lose. These are a supplement to reforms, not an alternative. Dr Mahathir should remember that. *Straits Times, Malaysia*



## news

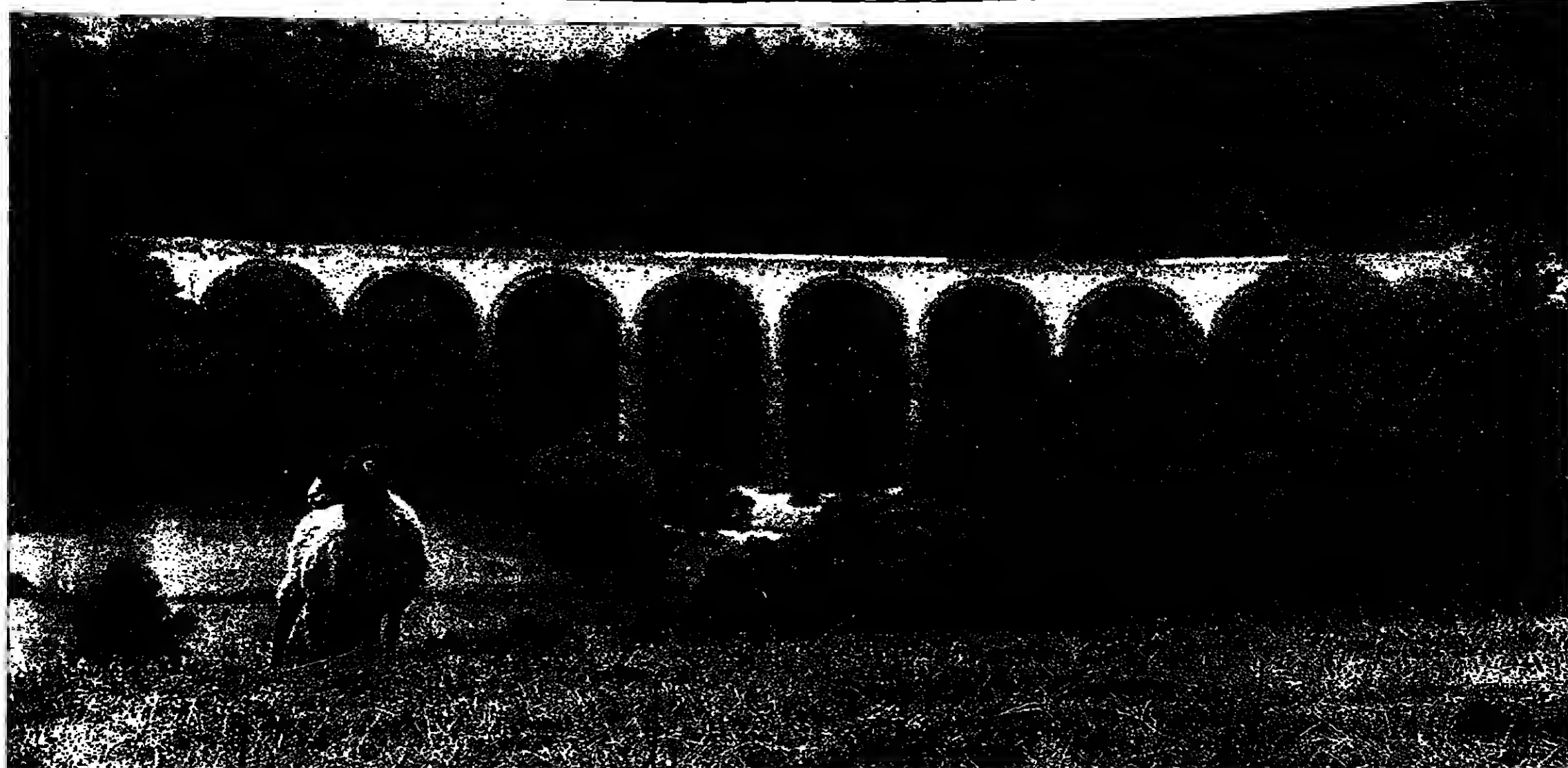
## Reborn viaduct spans the centuries

Lambley Viaduct, a masterpiece of Victorian engineering spanning the South Tyne, was opened to walkers yesterday after a £700,000 restoration.

Jim Cornell, executive director of the Railway Heritage Trust, acting on behalf of British Rail Property Board, handed over the viaduct to the North Pennines Heritage Trust, which will maintain it in perpetuity with a fund provided by the property board.

The 16-arched viaduct, which soars 110ft above the river, was opened in 1852 to bridge the last gap in the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. It was closed in 1976 and was once considered for demolition. Its quality was recognised by English Heritage which upgraded its status to Grade II Star, allowing grant assistance to be offered.

The viaduct will be part of the South Tyne Trail being developed by Cumbria and Northumberland councils.



Get out and walk: The trains stopped long ago and it fell into disrepair. Yesterday Lambley Viaduct was opened to hikers after a £700,000 restoration

Photograph: Tom Finn

## Schools to test all 5-year-olds in first term

JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

All five-year-olds will be tested during their first half-term at school from September 1998, under plans announced by the Government yesterday.

The new "baseline assessments" will emphasise the three Rs and will be used to measure the effect of schools on children's progress, as well as to determine children's needs. Schools will also be encouraged to assess children's physical and emotional development: how they cope on a climbing frame, for example, and how they relate to each other and adults.

Tests for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds are already in place and the first performance tables for 11-year-olds will be published next spring.

At present, ministers have no plans to publish performance tables for five-year-olds. Parents

will be told their children's results confidentially.

One teachers' union accused the Government of overloading teachers, but another welcomed the decision to stop short of imposing the same national tests for all children entering school.

Instead, there will be national framework against which local assessment schemes will be judged. About half local authorities already assess five-year-olds. Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to baseline testing.

Schools will be asked to join voluntary assessment schemes from September next year, and trials for the new framework will begin in 360 schools next week.

A national sample of children will be taken in 1998 so that ministers can assess national standards.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said:

## What your child needs to know in the first year of primary school

## Tick list of literacy and numeracy skills:

**Reading**  
Holds books appropriately while turning pages and retelling story from memory.  
Uses memory to match some spoken and written words.  
Recognises letters by shape and sound.  
Reads familiar words in a range of contexts.  
Reads simple texts.

**Writing**  
Uses symbols and letters.  
Writes name with appropriate upper and lower case letters.  
Hears sounds in words and writes corresponding letters in sequence.  
Attempts to write sentences.  
Attempts to spell unfamiliar words.

**Maths**  
Creates own pattern.

**Orders objects by size.**  
Matches similar objects to one another.  
Counts objects accurately.  
Identifies sequences.  
Counts objects accurately.  
Recognises numbers.  
Writes numbers.  
Adds and subtracts objects.  
Solves addition and subtraction problems.

"In our drive to serve our children well and raise standards, it is essential that teachers and parents know what their children have already mastered and what their future learning needs are."

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said: "It won't be threatening. It isn't a formal test. It won't be a one-off. During the first half of term, the teacher will make assess-

ments as part of her normal work."

No local scheme will be approved unless it involves parents. Sir Ron said parents might be asked to say whether their children could write letters, count to 10, recognise single words, pull eight bricks out of a pile or draw a picture of a man.

The authority will consult parents and teachers about three alternative schemes for the national framework. One

involves only literacy and numeracy, another asks the teacher to match a child's performance to descriptions of skills, and a third requires teachers to write their own descriptions of what children can do.

Sir Ron acknowledged that the new tests would mean more work for teachers.

Mrs Shephard said: "At this stage we are not putting in place a national scheme of assessment but that remains a pos-

sibility should it prove to be desirable." Legislation to enable a national scheme to be created is planned.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers said:

"The education system is getting more like a public address system: testing, testing, testing. We think this is overloading the system. We should not mind if they were going to drop tests at

seven." The union would support members who refused to carry out the tests on workload grounds, he said.

But Doug McAvooy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The Government has at last moved its attitude from if it moves test it, I welcome the introduction of baseline assessment which allows local education authorities and schools to develop their own accredited schemes."

Labour responded to the announcement by accusing the Government of stealing its clothes with a policy already being pioneered in many Labour-run local authorities.

Parents were celebrating yesterday after a 150-year-old village school reopened following a fundraising campaign which raised more than £40,000.

The campaign followed a decision last year by the local education authority to close the

school - which serves 14 pupils aged between four and eight - as part of a rationalisation programme involving 13 other schools in rural Warwickshire.

Parents, some of whose families had attended the school in Priors Marston, for five generations, fought the decision, and with the approval of the local church - which owned the building - they gathered the support of the local business community and began a campaign to save the school, and make it a non-fee paying independent institution, with charitable status.

The money raised is only enough to keep it open for a year but David Adams, chairman of the appeal fund, believes the village will ensure its future. New headteacher Brenda Edwards said she had been overwhelmed by people's generosity. "It is a lovely atmosphere here and I am privileged to be a part of it."

## Editor accused of firing middle-aged men finds herself on the spike

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

The *Sunday Express*, one of the most famous newspapers in Fleet Street history, was yesterday effectively shut down by its owners. United News & Media, as part of a controversial restructuring aimed at introducing a seven-day operation taking in both the *Sunday Express* and the *Daily Express*.

The newspaper, founded by Lord Beaverbrook and boasting at its height a daily sale of more than 4 million, will be published as part of a combined editorial operation, at the cost of 85 jobs, although its owners insisted last night the two titles would keep their separate mastheads.

Sue Douglas, the editor of the *Sunday Express*, has been offered £375,000 to leave her job, as part of the across-the-board restructuring. Several senior *Sunday* staff have been offered positions in the new structure, but said last night they were likely to decline.

Ms Douglas herself controversially fired staff at the *Sunday Express* as part of a difficult and eventual nine months in the job, and was at the centre of a bitter industrial dispute about staff sackings. She was yesterday pushed aside by United News & Media, Lord Hollick's media group, on the advice of management consultants, who opted, said insiders, for a "safe pair of hands".

The restructuring will see Richard Addis, currently editor of the *Daily Express*, take on editorial management of both

titles. There are plans to introduce new magazines on Saturday and Sunday, a new Monday-Sunday sports supplement and an increase in regional coverage.

In a letter to staff, seen by *The Independent*, Mr Addis wrote: "The changes we're planning at the *Express* makes us the first national newspaper group to publish papers for the way people actually live today - rather than the way they used to live."

He added that the old distinctions between the daily and weekend markets were no longer useful, and that by combining the two titles, "we will try to avoid their weaknesses".

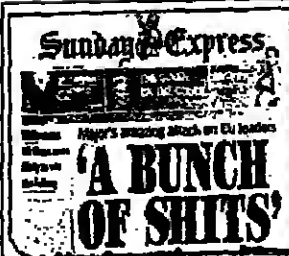
He said he intended to introduce 12 new departments, each with a head and a deputy head. News, pictures and sport will run on a daily cycle, while other parts of the paper, including features and analysis, will operate weekly - although not necessarily for *Sunday* publication.

The restructuring has left bitter feelings at the *Sunday Express*, where staff yesterday complained that no details were yet available about the anticipated sackings.

One senior *Sunday* journalist said: "They have put the f\*\*\*wits in charge."

The animosity between the *Sunday* and the *Daily* staffs had been growing in recent months, as the consultants worked their way through the operation to identify likely savings.

One senior editorial manager told Stephen Grabiner, the *Express* group's managing director: "I am depressed that you



Pushed aside: Sue Douglas (top), who is to lose her job as *Sunday Express* editor; (above) front-page anger; and (right) Lord Hollick. Photograph (top): Tony Buckingham

have turned out to lack vision just like everybody else."

"I can't believe they have got rid of Douglas and not Addis," said another senior manager, who has also been offered a position in the new hierarchy. The problems at the *Express* have been exacerbated by the

intense competition provided by the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, which dominate the mid-market. Yesterday's announcement was seen as a capitulation to the might of the *Mail*, and was seen by some as a prelude to the sale or even closure of the *Express* titles.

## Charges of BSE cover-up investigated by Europe

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

The European Parliament began an inquiry yesterday into whether the European Commission deliberately stifled debate about the possible threat to human health from BSE in British cattle.

A 19-member committee has until 17 November to report on whether the commission and member-states kept the public fully informed.

Documents leaked on the eve of the inquiry purport to show that senior commission bureaucrats responsible for agricultural policy tried to restrict public awareness of BSE in order to prop up the European beef market.

According to the documents, which were passed to the Paris newspaper *Libération*, the chief

villain of the piece was Guy Legras, a Frenchman who has headed the commission's agriculture directorate for the past 11 years.

In one document, an unsigned fax dated 1 March 1993, Mr Legras is said to have written: "In my experience, all discussion of BSE inevitably causes problems in the meat market."

We have already had an alarm last January after a programme on German television, and it is only by dint of prudence and discretion that we have been able, for the moment, to avoid a panic... In order to keep the public reassured, it is essential that we ourselves do not provoke a reopening of the debate."

The fax was sent to Ricardo Perissich, the Italian head of the commission's internal-market directorate, who had requested an investigation into possible

links between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human degenerative brain disorder. The reply attributed to Mr Legras raises the question of whether EU officials were placing a higher priority on defending the beef market than on protecting consumers.

Another leaked document, dated from 1990, indicates that participants at a meeting of the EU's Permanent Veterinary Committee advised the British Government not to publish the results of scientific research into BSE. A memorandum prepared by a French official in charge of consumer affairs, Gilbert Castille, referred bluntly to the need for "disinformation" to deflect the media's attention from BSE.

The commission's chief spokesman, Nikolaus van der Plass, did not deny the authenticity

of the documents but insisted that the commission had not arranged a cover-up. It would cooperate with the inquiry.

The inquiry must establish whether there was "maladministration" of EU laws by the commission or national governments. If that is the conclusion, some officials in the agricultural bureaucracy may come under pressure to resign. So far the commission President, Jacques Santer, is standing by Mr Legras.

The commission has never made a secret of the fact that one of its main concerns has been the protection of the beef market. However, since Britain's disclosure that BSE might be linked to the equivalent human disease, the commission has placed more emphasis on the need to eradicate BSE completely.

## Envoy accused over child porn

JOJO MOYES

Customs officers doing a routine search of the belongings of a British diplomat uncovered 109 obscene videos, 70 of which contain scenes of "paedophile depravity", a court heard.

Robert Coghlan, who was a first secretary at the Tokyo embassy, is pleading not guilty to a charge of illegal importation of paedophile material. On the first day of his trial yesterday, Southwark Crown Court heard that in August last year Mr Coghlan, who is suspended from the Foreign Office, anticipated he was to be relocated. At first it looked as though his destination was to be Britain but it was later decided he was to take up office in Madrid.

He was to leave Japan in October and before arriving in England was to go on a short tour, his goods in Tokyo to follow separately. The packers sent a customs form requesting details of the baggage. Mr Coghlan did not fill it in but completed a later form, writing

"none" against the space asking whether the baggage contained prohibited goods. "Unbeknown to the authorities at that time was the fact that amongst his personal belongings were 109 video cassettes of an obscene nature, of which 70 contained scenes of paedophilic depravity," said Nigel Lithman, for the prosecution.

The jury was asked to sit through a 90-minute sample, although this was later halved. The videos and some stills, "homosexual" magazines and brochures were found during a search at an East London storage facility and Mr Coghlan was arrested in March this year. The court heard that in an interview he said he had not wanted the videos to come to Britain but to go directly to Madrid.

"He said he was not interested in watching young kids, although he made quite clear that he recognised children in the videos were aged 12 or 13 and that he thought them rather young," Mr Lithman said.

The hearing continues today.

## Bodies found in Dutroux garden

LOUISE JURY

The decomposing bodies of two adolescents were found yesterday in the grounds of a property owned by Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect in Belgium's child abuse and murder scandal.

Major Jean-Marie Boudin, the police spokesman, said: "We have discovered bodies, probably of a human nature." A source said they were in an advanced state of decomposition.

Fears had mounted that more bodies would be found since two were discovered in the garden of Dutroux's home in Sars-la-Buissière near Charleroi last month after the convicted paedophile led police to them.

The find came after two girls were rescued in good health from another property owned by Dutroux. He was released from jail four years ago after serving three of a 13-year sentence for raping underage girls. Dutroux, who allegedly led the gang now facing kidnapping

and abuse charges, also admitted abducting Ann Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrecks, 19, a year ago.

Hopes had been high that they had survived, and their parents were encouraged to believe they might still be alive. But their whereabouts remains a mystery. A number of children have vanished in Belgium in recent years and remain unaccounted for.

As the speculation mounted, Superintendent John Bennett, who headed the British investigation into the Fred and Rosemary West killings in Gloucestershire, flew out to Belgium to advise the investigators, and specialist radar equipment, used in the Cromwell Street inquiry, was brought in to aid the digging.

Police have been digging around the property in Jumet, southern Belgium, for the past week. The bones were found beneath a shed in the garden. Major Boudin emphasised that the police did not know the identity of the remains.



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## news

# Labour fights shy of union proposals

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

The Labour leadership distanced itself yesterday from proposals for far tighter regulation of the world of work and new rights to strike for unions, which have been drawn up by some of the most prominent figures on the centre-left outside Parliament.

The 350-page study calls for the freedom to stage industrial action – without a ballot in certain cases – and virtually unlimited licence to take sympathy action. Endorsed by a wide range of figures, most of whom are Labour Party members, the study, "Working Life", will no doubt be characterised by the Conservative Party as Labour's "hidden agenda".

David Blunkett, shadow employment secretary, effectively rubbished the document as a

Blunkett said party would not be responding to 'impossible demands'

"combination of detailed research on the one hand and wish list" on the other. Labour would not be responding to "impossible demands".

The Institute of Employment Rights, which published the report, was at pains to present the study as a discussion document – an attempt to set the agenda for debate – rather than a manifesto.

The most sensitive element of the study, endorsed by those on the left and right of the party, is the section dealing with unions.

The document says that unions should have the freedom to determine their own rules. Strike ballots should not be required by law where action is in response to the victimisation of a union official or a unilateral variation of working conditions by an employer. Workers would also be allowed to refuse to cross picket lines without a vote. The report says the framework for union law should be determined by International Labour Organisation conventions, which are too radical

from the Labour Party's point of view.

The study also calls for a national minimum wage based on the European Decency Threshold, which would currently give a rate higher than the £4.26 an hour being demanded by some unions.

Minimum employment terms should be enforced by statutory Sectoral Employment Commissions, which would have a responsibility to promote collective bargaining. The sectoral agreements would be enforceable through newly established labour courts.

"Working Life" concludes that "deregulation" of the labour market has failed to provide long-term economic security. A "reconstruction" of labour law was needed to establish minimum standards at work. Five principles should underpin such legislation: a quality of opportunity, social justice, workplace democracy, the protection of civil liberties and "fairness" at work.

The report argues that employment law should reach all workers, especially the most vulnerable, such as agency workers, homeworkers and casual employees. Working time should be regulated in accordance with European Union standards and there should be new initiatives to help workers with family responsibilities. The law on unfair dismissal should be strengthened so that people are more effectively protected.

Carolyn Jones, director of the institute, said the document amounted to the most comprehensive review of employment law in this country for the past 30 years. "If implemented these proposals would go a long way to rebuild democratic institutions and the people's rights and opportunities, using employment law as one of the vehicles for this purpose."

But Mr Blunkett wanted to put the policy suggestions firmly in their place. "In the course of any one week there are literally dozens of policy papers, resource findings and suggested revisions to the law which arrive on my desk. Some of them, like the curate's egg, are good in parts and offer food for thought."

He pointed out that Labour had produced its own proposals: "It will not be our intention to add to our proposals in the light of this or similar reports."

## Mischievous sprite spreads confusion among the mortals



Comedy of tricks: Yung-biao Lin of the Ninagawa Company of Japan rehearsing as Puck in full make-up for the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which opens at the Mermaid Theatre in the City of London tonight and plays until 14 September. Photograph: Edward Sykes

## Women's rugby, a lesbian season, Asian comedy - an average night on Channel 4

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

Women's rugby, a lesbian season, an Asian comedy, a sports magazine presented by children and a portrait of the Anglican church in crisis were yesterday unveiled by Channel 4 as evidence of its unique role in providing television for minorities.

It has been thrown on the defensive by claims that it may be sold, and criticism that it no longer fulfils its specialised remit. Channel 4's chief executive, Michael Grade, has also been attacked for competing head-on with ITV with imported entertainment shows such as *Friends*.

But John Willis, director of programmes, said as he launched the autumn schedule: "This is the perfect answer to what people have been saying about Channel 4's remit."

The remit is about creating a channel that can take risks and try new things. On every floor

of Channel 4, as well as coffee machines, there are commissioners who understand that the remit is the soul of the channel.

"It is not just worthwhile programmes – multicultural programmes, or gay programmes. It's trying new filmmakers, whether it's Danny

Boyle in *Trainspotting* or Nicholas Hytner in *The Madness of King George*, or writing talent which is starting to emerge."

Mr Willis cited his adventurous new game show *Wanted* as an example of innovation. In it the former KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky will offer advice to

competitors trying to escape capture in a hunt shown live weekly.

The channel will also show a series of quirky documentaries this autumn called *Women At Play*, including a women's rugby team and a football team of women pensioners.

The arts line-up is led by Sir Simon Rattle's seven-hour exploration of 20th century orchestral music, while for the sixth year running Channel 4 will screen the Turner Prize award dinner.

The highlight of the autumn's drama is a three-part serial by

Paula Milne, writer of the *The Politician's Wife*. It stars Nigel Hawthorne as a heart surgeon who undergoes a personal crisis at the height of his career.

Hawthorne's triumph in the Oscar-winning feature film *The Madness of King George* will be given its British television premiere on Channel 4, along with *Backbeat*, *Vanya on 42nd Street* – Louis Malle's final film, *Ladybird Ladybird* by Ken Loach and the Asian comedy by Gurinder Chadha, *Bhaji On The Beach*.

The season features the actress Jane Horrocks in *Never Mind the Horrocks* offering spoofs of Jane Austen and a prissy 1950s childrean's TV presenter. Also coming is a second season of Dyke TV featuring a profile of the model Rachel Williams, who co-presented the *Girlie Show*, *Rookies*, the first sports magazine featuring childrean as reporters and a profile of Paul Gascoigne on Cutting Edge.



For all tastes: Channel 4's line-up includes Jane Horrocks, Nigel Hawthorne, Oleg Gordievsky and Paul Gascoigne

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## Think tank tells Blair not to spend more on NHS

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The United Kingdom can not only afford the NHS, it should not spend any more money on it, according to a report published yesterday by the left-of-centre think tank the Institute of Public Policy Research.

In an analysis as controversial as last year's drug industry-financed report *Healthcare 2000*, which argued that the NHS was in crisis and that new charges or a "core" service would have to be introduced, the IPPR study argues there is nothing fundamentally new in the gap between demand for health care and its supply – and that there is no greater need for ration care now than in 1948.

The system is not in crisis, the

study by academics at the Health Economics Research Unit at Aberdeen University, concludes.

New technologies will increase costs in some areas but save money in others. The projected increase in costs from the ageing population has been exaggerated, and there is little correlation between ageing and higher health costs. What matters is the health status of the elderly – which the Government can and should improve.

And rather than spend a greater share of the national wealth on the NHS, any extra resources might be better invested in housing and education, which are known to improve public health.

The report will provide comfort for Tony Blair, the Labour

leader, who has been arguing that a Labour government must ensure existing NHS resources are well spent before deciding whether there is a "funding gap" to plug. Its conclusions also challenge the view of those who believe the NHS cannot continue and that new forms of charging are inevitable.

The report's authors, Sarah Wordsworth, Cam Donaldson and Anthony Scott, say their findings do not remove the need to set priorities and ration health care to some degree. "Resources for health care are scarce, have always been scarce and always will be."

But the need to make choices about what and how much is provided, does not mean new charges or a reduced "core" service. Charges are both in-

equitable, hurting the least well off, and inflationary – they tend to generate extra and, at times, unnecessary treatment and investigation of patients who can afford to pay. Countries which have attempted to define core services – New Zealand, the Netherlands and the US state of Oregon – have found the exercise difficult. Extra real-term spending on the NHS should only be allowed where the costs plainly bring benefits, the report argues. The UK spends less on health care, and sometimes substantially less, than other developed countries. But there is no clear evidence that they achieve better health outcomes as a result.

Can We Afford the NHS? IPPR, 30-32 Southampton St, WC2E 7RA; £5.45.

## Public tough on police rapists

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Police officers who rape should be jailed for longer than professional and working class offenders, a survey has found.

Research also revealed that many people continue to believe myths about rape, such as that women who wear short skirts, get drunk, and walk home late at night are more likely to be raped. Research shows, however, that most women are attacked by someone they know, during "date rapes" for example, and that assaults usually occur indoors.

In the study, presented to the conference of the British Psychological Society's crimino-

logical and legal division, a sample group of about 100 was given four scenarios in which a rape was carried out and asked to complete a questionnaire. The stories included a lorry driver attacking an unemployed mother, a police officer raping an accountant after an office party, a lecturer assaulting a student, and a homeless man raping a school cook.

The group believed the police officer should get the longest sentence, which ranged from seven years to life, and all members wanted longer jail terms than are given in court. The second most severe sentence went to the lorry driver, who threatened to kill his victim, followed by the lecturer and

the homeless person. The longest sentences were recommended for "respectable" rapists irrespective of the victims' "respectability". Few participants blamed the victims or stated that the attacks were "foreseeable".

An unexpected finding of the research, by Michelle Dolphin and Joanna Adler of the department of psychology at Kent University, was that a third of the 50 women in the sample questioned reported that they had been raped or sexually assaulted. The victims were less likely to subscribe to the rape stereotypes.

Military style regimes at American "boot camps" – recently imported to the British

penal system – fail to deter inmates from reoffending, the conference was told.

American research suggests the only positive effect on the offenders appears to be linked to rehabilitation programmes or intensive post-release supervision.

Britain's first boot camp for young offenders opened in July at Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institution in Warrington. Inmates aged between 18 and 21 will face intensive physical training and education.

Danielle Hudson, a forensic psychologist, in a review of published work on the "success" of boot camps, concluded that "there is no clear evidence of any beneficial effects resulting from a regime's military emphasis".

### DAILY POEM

#### A Kind of Poetry.

By Christopher Reid

The first empties his pockets and then builds towers of the different denominations to stand by his place at table while he chews.

The next daydreams of the death of an imagined relative, a solicitor's letter the spell which will change his life.

The third throws most of what he has at women and flighty horses.

The fourth retains in his nostrils briefly the faint, print smell of new notes out of the machine.

Number five never fails to consult the experts and the stargazers before attempting the timeliest transaction.

While six, poor six, who must beg for it, knows just which pitch is lucky and which is not.

Christopher Reid's *Expanded Universe*, published on Monday by Faber, is one of the most inventive poetry books of the year. Reid's method, "elegantly oblique" as one writer has described it, creates poems of dazzling imagery and whimsy, at the heart of which there is a rare modesty and warmth. He can be heard reading his poems at Voice Box on the South Bank, Wednesday 18 September at 7.30pm.

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# The best days of your life, the worst of mine

Summer's over, the new term is about to begin. What are the nameless terrors lurking in the pit of your stomach, and why don't your children seem to share them?

There is something about the first day at school which demands spanking new shoes

BY SOPHIE RADICE

**W**hy do I do it? I, who always laugh at the hard-like instincts of the French blocking the roads of the nation as they leave and return from their holidays on exactly the same day. And yet, here we are, once again in Brent Cross shopping centre on the run-up to the start of a new school year, grimly going from shoe shop to shoe shop while children weep and whine and mothers either shriek or go all glassy-eyed and retreat to that place in their head where mothers who don't shout go.

We could all have done this a couple of weeks ago, or indeed waited until next weekend or the weekend after that, but there is something about the first day of the new school term which demands absolutely spanking new shoes. Of course, their feet will have grown over the holidays, and, of course, most of us feel guilty about their having worn £1.99 jellies for the whole of the summer ("little feet are precious and growing bones must be supported" said a sign in one shoe shop), but there is more to it than that.

I remember the ritual of going to buy shoes at John Lewis (who now give out bleepers at this pre-school rush so that parents can "shop at their leisure" to pass the two-hour wait) and my feelings of fresh optimism and excitement being bound up in walking into my playground and lying up for the first time in ages with fine new shoes. Much of that first day would be spent spitting and rubbing the shoes in an attempt to keep them nice and shiny.

I suspect all the mothers clutching alarmingly high-number tickets in Russell and Bromley's Kid store while a Disney film blares out from strategically placed television screens have similar memories. Like our own mothers at the beginning of the school year, we all want to do absolutely the right thing by our child, as if making them feel smart and confident for the first day will set the tone for the whole school year.

At this shoe store they have not only trainers with light-up heels and laces but also nice, round-toed, medically approved leather ones. Both are horribly expensive, and I have to admit that when I have been skint at other times of the year I have just got the right size from Safeways and pinched the front bit to make sure there is enough room when I put them on my kids' feet. I have even put second-hand sandals on to my children's feet, and sometimes they only wear wellies for weeks on end.

And guess what? They have been fine: they have not developed bunions, pigeon toes, flat feet or strange postures. If I told this to the specially trained fitting assistants who spend their lives on their knees measuring the length and width of children's feet and feeling and prodding for a perfect fit, I am afraid I would be asked to leave. In fact, it wouldn't be the first time. Once my (then two-year-old) daughter was so dismayed at not being able to get some glittery red Doc Martens in her size, that she slapped the shop assistant who told her the bad news. They asked me to come back when she was in "better spirits" and her brother and I slunk away embarrassed, with her screaming abuse over my shoulder.

The woman sitting next to me has daughter problems too. Her prematurely teenage 10-year-old is sneering at her mother's suggestions for school shoes, refusing to try on a pair of lace-ups that they have waited an hour for. The mother gets so desperate at the thought of going to another shop and waiting for another length of time that she caves in.

"Go on, choose anything you want so long as it's black. You know your school insists on black." Sulkily the girl finds a pair with as much of a heel as you are ever going to find in a children's



shoe shop and the assistant comes out of the store room to tell them that they don't have any in her size. "You could order them, madam," the young assistant offers helpfully. "But we need them now. She starts school on Wednesday, you see." The mother is nearly in tears, and as they leave her daughter appears to be smirking.

All around are similar scenes. Anyone who has only had experience of grown-up shoe shopping would be absolutely appalled at the chaos and publicly displayed emotions here. Children run about whacking each other while others just loiter around holding shoes that they have taken off the shelves. Mothers do not seem to have any sense of camaraderie, but view each other as annoying hindrances to getting the shoes that they want. Add to this a team of over-tired and increasingly surly assistants (and who can blame them, when you look at their customers?) and you get the picture.

When it is finally our turn, I have already promised my two all sorts of delicious bribes so they will desist from hurting each other while we are in the shop. They have both decided on their top four choices of shoe so that we will have something to fall back on if the shop does not have what they want.

Our nice young assistant admits that the pre-school days are "hell on earth" and that he feels like offering incentives for mothers to come back in a couple of days' time.

My children do not humiliate me this time. They both walk up and down when they are told to, so that the assistant can ask how they feel. Amazingly enough, it takes only 20 minutes for them both to be happily fitted into shoes that they are both so thrilled by that they sleep with them on their pillows.

Tomorrow - haircuts!

**I**t's like a scene from Vermeer or Pieter de Hooch: Interior with Seamstress, School Uniform and Cash's Name Tapes. In the middle of the kitchen sits the children's nanny, laboriously sewing little white tags on to a bewildering succession of garments.

"Games skirt - black," she recites, like a drill sergeant checking off recruits. "Shorts - black cycling. Tights - black footless (footless?). Jogging trousers - black with white stripe. Leopard - black. Kilt - grey. Lab Coat..." I assume she is winding me up (what are they trying to turn my gorgeous daughter into? A gym-haunting, Amazonian boffin with a penchant for Scottish dancing?). But no, they're all genuine school requirements; all part of the severe, monochrome wardrobe in which my daughter Sophie will soon be festooned, emblazoned and be-knickered as she starts her first term at the Big School.

How bad can it be? The school is not a boarding school, Sophie will not be lost to her loving family, communicating only in tear-stained letters written between Practical Torture class and double-period Pagan Rituals. She will be home every evening. The school isn't far; she can practically walk there. Many of her friends from Junior School will be starting alongside her. She has met the new class teacher, who is "terribly nice". Mr Blunkett's proposed new strictures about enforced homework and mandatory bedtime will not affect the school

It all comes down to breaktime on the first day. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression.

BY JOHN WALSH

since it is private. Everything will be fine. So why am I so nervous about this small step along the highway of my daughter's education?

It's partly because she is. As she circles the pile of name-tagged uniform, marvelling at its comprehensiveness ("What's the white apron for, Sophie?" I ask. "Cookery? Dusting?" She fixes me with a stern eye. "Carpentry, Dad," she says. "Just carpentry?"), two kinds of alarm are gradually stealing over her. First, the fear that she won't do well. "I'm afraid of messing up the exams. I don't want to be put in with the thickies," she says. As if. And there's the other fear, equally irrational, that she won't have any friends, that she'll be ignored, disliked, picked on, dissed, found wanting or made to feel unpopular in one of the thousand ways 11-year-old girls can suffer for not being exactly like their peers.

It all comes down to that moment at break-time on the first day, when you first walk out into the playground. It supposedly decides who will be your friends and who your enemies; who will be the leaders and who the led; who will be

style dictator and who style victim for the next few years, if not the rest of your life. "But sweetheart," I said. "You'll all be wearing school uniform. You won't be taking part in some trendiness contest. Nobody will be in pedal pushers or cargo pants or All Saints combat tops, or belly chains or hair extensions or blue-sparkly nail varnish or..."

"Daddy," she said. "That isn't the point. Everyone will be looking to see who seems nice, who laughs too much, who looks cool, who looks as if they might be friendly, and who looks a complete dork. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression."

Me too. If ever there was a time when parents felt themselves under the scrutiny of the Big School down the road, it's now. Junior School is a breeze for parents - because the scholars are so young, parents and teachers can pretend to agree that tiny delinquents are merely incorrigible and yelling neurotics. Merely highly strung. But once they're past 10, and are at least in the gravitational pull of puberty and moral choice, there's no hiding place. Your little angel is on a downhill race to being

grown up, and will be either a good or bad advertisement for how you've brought them up.

So as the first term approaches, the parents read the school's printed material far more nervously than the children at whom it is aimed. "Read the School Rules and the Uniform List," snarls a communication from the Head to all new pupils. "You have to obey them." Crikey. I sit and read the "Parents' Practical Guide to Homework" as if it's the Ten Commandments. I peruse the "Dealing with Ashtima" letter as if it were a newly discovered missive from Shakespeare to the Dark Lady. I nod submissively as I'm told precisely where to find this item of clothing, and precisely how to pay for it. (And take your hands out of your pockets, you grubby little man.)

Smarting beneath the lash of the music department's scorn ("Please do not apply for piano lessons if you do not have, or are not prepared to obtain, a piano"), I watch my daughter talking to her mother about her lengths. She has tried on the new school skirt and discovered it is an inch below the knee. As a result Sophie knows it is social death to have a skirt anything longer than two inches above the knee. And some of the first-year girls are phoning each other in tears, because Peter Jones has run out of Big School blazers and they must suffer the indignity of their Junior School ones for the first week. Poor them. Poor her. Poor me. We are all heading for a nasty learning curve.

## My first day at school

INTERVIEWS BY  
CAYTE WILLIAMS

**Alison Roberts (half of fashion design duo Antoni & Alison)**  
Pashley Down Primary School, East Sussex, 1968

**F**rom the day I knew I was going to school, I'd known that my teacher's name was Miss Sykes. I had a huge fear of getting her name wrong and called her Miss Skies all that day and all through school. The more nervous I was of getting it wrong, the worse it got. My mum made me this pink cape with a fur hood and I remember walking along with my mum to school on the first day, trying to remember this lady's name.

I started school a bit later than some of the other children. I think some people started in September, but because my birthday was in February, I started in March. My mum took me to the school and I remember being really, really nervous. It seemed that everybody



knew what was going on apart from me.

I remember going into the canteen for school dinners. The dinner ladies would give you a piece of meat pie on a plate and you would have to help yourself to potatoes from this pot in the middle of the table when you sat down. I remember the children passing it around and I saw it coming towards me. I was very nervous and didn't want to draw attention to myself at all. I remember balancing a potato on my spoon, and watching it wobble because I was shaking so much with nerves. Then somebody jolted my arm and this potato went flying across the table and landed in a boy's dinner. Gravy splattered all over his nice striped T-shirt and he was so upset that he screamed his head off. I remember seeing this big cartoon mouth like something out of Charlie Brown. I can still see his tinsels now.

**Meg Henderson, novelist**  
St Philomena's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glasgow, 1954

**I** taught myself to read before I went to school, so when I arrived, there was this great rumpus. I grew up in the Black Hill district of Glasgow which was a place connocted for the poor Irish Catholics in Glasgow. It was the safest and

most moral place I have ever lived, because the police wouldn't go anywhere near there so it was policed by the teddy boy gangs.

When my mother told the teachers that I could read, they produced a book with a snug look on their faces, but were shocked when I started to read. The teachers got stuck into my mother on the very first day, their idea was that learning was theirs to give, and not yours to give yourself. My first day was spent stuck at a desk and given book after book to read while the other children played with plasticine. I didn't realise it was a punishment.

I ran home to my mother at lunchtime to make sure she was still there. When I went back in the afternoon I read books. I was wearing a white frilly house, a little Royal Stuart tartan kilt, kilie shoes with big silver buckles on the front, and a big ribbon which looked like I had a budge on my head.

I remember I was getting up quite excited because my big brother was already there and school. I remember getting all dressed up in that bloody outfit. My mother took me along to school and I remember that all these kids were crying because it was their first experience of being away from their mothers. My brother was in the other part of the school, so telling him that I'd been to school was very exciting.

The funny thing was the teachers regarded me with some esteem, because everytime a school inspector came, they made me get up and read as an example of their success. I knew all the children who were in my class anyway because we lived in a close-knit community.

I remember running home from school, not only because I was excited, but because the gas works nearby opened up all their pipes at around 3pm and there were no filters in those days. If you were out-

side you got the full blast of the sulphur.

When I got home from school, I couldn't believe that I had to go back the next day.

**Sarah Carlton, communications trainer**  
College House Juniors, Nottingham, 1968

**M**y father was in the forces so I must have moved to a new school in both England and Germany seven times. The longest time I ever spent was in my last school which was for five years. The day I remember the most clearly was going to the second year of a junior school when I was eight. I was really nervous and I remember walking into the class. The teacher introduced me and everybody was staring at me. It was like taking a deep breath and jumping in to the deep end of the swimming pool. While the teacher talked about me



that

ATTACK ON IRAQ

# reckless actions have consequences'



War and the pity of war: A Tomahawk cruise missile (left) lifting off from the Laboon, one of the US warships in the Gulf region, and people who fled recent fighting sheltering (right) in a camp in the Kurdish city of Kirkuk

## Americans lost in the moral maze of the Middle East

The moral was simple. Act like a beast and the B-52s will come winging in from Guam, just like they did yesterday. "When you abuse your own people... you must pay the price," President Bill Clinton told Saddam Hussein. And even our very own Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was thundering forth about Saddam's "terrible record of humanitarian [sic] atrocities." All true.

Saddam Hussein is a wicked man. His prison cells are filled with torture victims, his hangmen on 24-hour duty - women are executed on Wednesdays and Saturdays - and his secret police maintain raping rooms below their offices. But if the military targets were specific, the moral indignation was also

highly selective. For if iniquity were the trigger for air attack, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks.

General John Shalikashvili, we are told, held a friendly conversation with Hosni Mubarak just before the cruise missiles were launched, to test the Egyptian leader's reaction to the coming blitz. Neither side would discuss their talks but we can be sure there was one subject on which Gen Shalikashvili did not question Mr Mubarak: the systematic use of torture by the Egyptian state security police on those suspected of violently opposing the regime.

Electricity applied to genitals, beatings and cigarette burns are routine in the intelligence offices at Lazoughly Street in Cairo and in Alexandria, where the general and the President were chatting. In two Egyptian jails, warders punish prisoners by forcing them to rape each other. More than 20 have been killed in one prison complex alone. But we can be sure that loyal Egypt will see no B-52s.

The Americans also called on the Saudis during their pre-bombardment tour of the Middle East. And here again, we can be sure they did not raise Saudi Arabia's habit of subjecting men and women accused of

murder, rape or drug-dealing to secret trials in which they often have no defence counsel - followed by public beheading outside mosques on Friday mornings. Womeo have their scarves removed before male executioners slice off their heads. A mother and daughter were executed this way in Dhahran; the youngest woman to be executed in the pro-Western Gulf, a Sri Lankan girl, was shot by firing squad just after her nineteenth birthday for allegedly killing her employer's baby, a charge she denied.

The whipping of young women by men is a common punishment for female pris-

oners accused of illicit relations in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. But Saudi Arabia still plays host to 5,000 US servicemen and just happens to hold the world's largest oil reservoir. Very definitely no B-52s over Saudi Arabia.

Then there is the friendly little island of Bahrain, home base of the US Gulf fleet, from where its admiral was yesterday directing two of his warships to fire their cruise missiles at Iraq. Less than a mile from the admiral's wardroom stands the headquarters of Bahrain's security police, where the regime's opponents - who demand a return to parliamentary democ-

cracy but stand accused of trying to overthrow the regime - are routinely tortured with beatings and sexual abuse. Chief torturer is a Jordanian army colonel who acts as translator for the man who runs the security police, former British Special Branch man Jan Henderson. Mr Portillo, needless to say, has never been known to beat his breast over these peccadilloes. So no B-52s en route for Bahrain.

Israel was also forewarned of the US attack on Iraq. Yet it is more than a certainty that no American raised the question of Israel's notorious Khiam jail in southern Lebanon - in which hundreds of Shia prisoners have

been routinely tortured with electricity applied to fingers and genitals - nor the massacre of 105 refugees in a UN "safe haven" in southern Lebanon in April, a bloodbath which occurred in the course of an offensive to which Mr Portillo originally gave his moral approval. Absolutely never - ever - will B-52s head for Israel.

Iraq's neighbour Syria has a dodgy record on human rights. The massacre of prisoners at Palmyra and the slaughter of thousands of Islamists at Hama in 1982, along with ferocious torture in the dungeons of five security organisations, is mentioned from time to time,

though not by Mr Clinton when he paid a state visit to Damascus in 1994. US commentators do suggest that if Syria doesn't stop "supporting terrorism" and sign up for peace with Israel, it may receive a cruise or too. So Syrians may have to watch the skies if they don't do what they are told by the Americans. But so far, no B-52s.

How President Saddam must look back at the golden days when we sold weapons to his army of torturers, who we supported his invasion of Iran, when we armed his artillerymen. Because, when he did what he was told, no one wasted his time with talk of human-rights abuses. When you are a friend of the West, you don't have to pay the price.

If you are a friend of the West, however ruthless, you do not have to pay the price, writes **Robert Fisk**

## Iraqi forces ordered by leaders to ignore UN no-fly zones

Baghdad (Reuters) - Unbowed by yesterday's United States missile attacks, which he said caused little damage, President Saddam Hussein ordered his armed forces to down any hostile plane flying over Iraq and to ignore the Western-imposed northern and southern "no-fly" zones.

Wearing his field marshal's uniform, he addressed the nation in a live speech on state radio and television just hours after the missile attack on southern Iraq.

"You men of the air defence and flocks of the skies consider from now their damned imaginary lines north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel non-existent."

"Hit back with capability and efficiency, relying on God the Almighty, at any hostile plane

the aggressors fly to violate the airspace of your great country throughout Iraq from now and in future," Saddam said.

Carrying out those orders, directed at both anti-aircraft gunners and pilots, would require an air engagement that Iraq avoided even when it had the far more formidable force that captured Kuwait in 1990.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, in a telephone interview broadcast live on CNN television, said: "Iraq will not tolerate this 'no-fly zone' any more. It has gone beyond reason... [it] has been used as one of the means for aggression against Iraq."

Saddam Hussein said God "humiliated the aggression and the aggressors", stressing that

Iraq losses were minimal. A spokesman for Iraq's general command of the armed forces, quoted on state television, later said that the US missile attacks had killed five people and wounded 19, including civilians.

"The sons of Iraq were on their guard for the aggressors, downing a great number of their missiles," Saddam said. He did not say how many US cruise missiles were shot down.

"Once again the humiliated and lowly Americans have come to perpetrate their often-repeated cowardly act by hiding behind technological development that God Almighty has turned into an insult on them," Iraq's President said.

"Resist them and teach them a new lesson in the meanings which their humiliating and lowly souls do not carry," Sad-

dam Hussein urged his troops.

Mr Aziz told CNN that Iraqi military units who had helped the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) regain the city of Arbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had returned to their bases several hours before Washington fired missiles at Iraq.

"What we did was legitimate. What the United States did was illegitimate and against international law, against the letter and spirit of United Nations resolutions about Iraq," Mr Aziz said. "What we did was a responsible, positive, limited operation to help our people. We did nothing wrong."

Mr Aziz dismissed official US reports that Iraqi troops were still in Arbil or moving towards the Kurdish town of Sulaymaniyah as "deliberate disinformation".

## Arabs refuse to back US strike

ADEL DARWISH

Cracks in the American-led Gulf war alliance were behind President Bill Clinton's decision to go it alone and launch a cruise missile attack on Iraqi targets, according to diplomats in the region.

Fearing a shift of the power balance in the region if the United States further weakened Iraq's power, Arab countries refused to sanction the US attack, and some Washington allies in the region condemned the action.

The 22-nation Arab League yesterday said the attack infringing an Arab country's sovereignty and the league's secretary general, Dr Esmat Abdel-Meguid, said there was no international legitimacy for the US action.

It was an Arab League summit in Cairo in August 1990 that paved the way for the Arab-Western alliance led by the US against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. However, the US has recently found Gulf countries who readily allowed their air bases to be used in 1991 less compliant than they were.

United Arab Emirates, used by western forces during the Gulf war operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, appeared to be

backing Iraq's action in Kurdistan. "Iraq has the right to defend the integrity and independence of its territory," said one official in Abu Dhabi. The official UAE media said foreign intervention in Iraq's internal affairs was a violation of international law. The President, Sheikh Zayid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, told the US ambassador, David Lyth, that the US should mediate between the fighting Kurdish factions if it wanted peace in "Northern Iraq". The term - as distinct from "Kurdistan" - was also used by Egypt's Foreign Secretary, Amr Moussa, before the missile strike when he called for "restraint" and defended Iraq's sovereignty.

The Egyptians played a major role in lining up the Arab coalition behind the US in 1990, but Cairo yesterday expressed its "deep concern" over the "current incidents on the Iraqi land", and called for "a full respect and implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions".

Both commentators on state controlled Cairo television and spokesmen for independent parties pointed out that Security Council Resolution 688, issued after the ceasefire to protect minorities in Iraq, had no provision for the use of force. The com-

mentators also pointed out that the no-fly zone was imposed by the US and Britain, it is not mentioned in the resolution.

Similar comments, pointing to the ambiguity of the situation under international law, were expressed in newspapers in Saudi Arabia.

The weakness of Arab support for US policy is caused by a combination of factors. Many leaders face domestic fundamentalist opposition. The peace process with Israel following the election of a hardline Likud government is stalling badly. And a weak Iraq might tilt the balance of power in favour of Iran, accused by many Arab leaders

of backing Islamic terrorists.

In Jordan, King Hussein has faced riots over food pricing. This week the Jordanians said they will not allow their soil to support any intervention in Iraq. Officials argued that the continuing policy of stopping Baghdad from extending control over the rebellious Kurds in the north and the Shia in the south was "a dangerous recipe and would invite countries in the region to use this power vacuum to their advantage".

Iran's official media said the attack was a ploy by Mr Clinton to boost his popularity before the US presidential election. But it also warned that the fighting could lead to a repeat of the Kurds' exodus to Iran. A similar point was expressed by Turkey.

Several Arab diplomats said they do not believe that the US has a meaningful strategy in the region, a point shared by some Iraqi opposition groups. "The missile attack shows that Washington is always ready for a reaction when Saddam makes a move every two or three years, but it also shows that there is no long term American strategy in dealing with the current Iraqi regime," said Dr Laith Knbbah of the Iraqi National Congress yesterday.



King Hussein: Jordan will not be used in attack on Iraq

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School's out: Two children in Grozny survey the ruins of their school as a new term is due

Photograph: AP

## Lebed puts Chechen death-toll at 90,000

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Still flushed by his swift, if fragile, peace pact with the Chechens, Alexander Lebed delivered another surprise to his fellow Russians yesterday by saying as many as 90,000 people may have been killed in the war, nearly three times more than previously estimated.

Although the death-toll in the 21-month conflict has always been based on sketchy figures, the general's claim aroused attention because of his role as Russia's Security Council chief and presidential envoy to the war zone, positions which should give him access to official Russian statistics.

His figures, which he admitted were "plus or minus 10,000", are far higher than estimates usually quoted by aid organisations, the media, and the US State Department, which

generally set the figure at between 30,000 and 40,000. The great bulk of these were civilians caught in the maelstrom which erupted when President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 in an attempt to end the republic's bid for independence.

Mr Lebed came up with the figures at a press conference in Moscow where, far from dripping in official garlands, the general returned from his weekend Caucasus peace mission to face a barrage of criticism from his political opponents. These ranged from accusations that he is playing into the hands of Chechen criminals to complaints that his powers of office are illegal.

The Communists' former presidential candidate, Gennady Zyuganov, yesterday weighed in, alleging the peace deal violates the Russian constitution. True to his national-

ist instincts, he described the conflict as "exclusively Russia's internal affair".

The general's position has not been made any easier by Mr Yeltsin's failure to say anything publicly about the pact or even to interrupt his holiday to meet with him. "I must say I could do with sincere support by the President," said Mr Lebed, although he went on to say he had been in contact with his boss by telephone. Silence, he remarked, was a "sign of consent".

He will also take comfort from the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin - no particular friend of Mr Lebed's - who has warned to the deal, a preliminary pact which defers settlement of the republic's political status for five years. He told a meeting in the North Caucasus that, while the terms were the "cause of some concern, on the whole we consider them right".

Mr Lebed has himself to blame for some of the flak. A photograph of him sporting a Caucasian sheepskin hat and coat and (cigarette-holder) jutting jauntily from beneath his boxer's nose) flourishing a traditional knife will have delighted newspaper editors when it landed on their desks, shortly after the deal was signed. But

it will not have played well at home, even among the general's many fans who are relieved the fighting has stopped, but who have never had any love for the Chechens.

This fondness for the lime-light has led to accusations that Mr Lebed is using his role to pitch for the Kremlin's top job, calculating that the ailing Mr Yeltsin may not occupy it for long. He denies it. "I cannot understand political organisations and the media who allege that I have launched a presidential campaign," he said. "I just want to end the war."

Although many will suspect he protests too much, he can cite his record, which is far better than previous Russian peace-brokers'. Federal forces are withdrawing from southern Chechnya and Grozny. And there is peace, albeit one clouded by fears of an outbreak of bloodletting between the separatists and the supporters of the Moscow-backed government of Doku Zavgayev. Mr Lebed said the next step was to set up some form of government - he speaks of "joint temporary executive and legislative power bodies" - from across the republic's political spectrum. This undertaking will be no easier than any that has gone before.

### SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**A** lone Palestinian hijacker seized a Bulgarian charter airplane on a flight from Beirut yesterday afternoon but released all 150 passengers at Varna airport, near Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, before ordering the crew to fly on to Oslo. The hijacker, who seized the TU-150 aircraft 15 minutes before it touched down in Varna. "The pilot convinced [the hijacker] that the plane needed refuelling and a cleared passage to the final destination," said the director of Varna airport, Atanas Atanasov. *Reuters - Varna*

**L**iberia's new head of state, Ruth Perry, was sworn in with the task of guiding the country's armed factions to disarmament and elections scheduled for next May. At the ceremony in the capital Monrovia, Ms Perry, a seacoast during the 1980s under late president Samuel Doe, urged Liberians to reconcile and reunite. "I will play the role of a stabiliser and the Council of State must be seen as one united force speaking with one voice." *Reuters - Monrovia*

**A** minority rights group led by the late Ken Saro-Wiwa blasted the Commonwealth for its response to Nigeria since the execution of the activist. Calling the Commonwealth a "hostage" of Nigeria's military leader General Sani Abacha, the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People criticised its plan to send officials to Lagos to salvage a Commonwealth foreign ministers' mission to the country. The mission was planned for 29-30 August but was called off after Nigeria's military regime made clear the visitors would be tightly controlled. Commonwealth officials will meet Nigerian on 9 September officials to try to arrange another mission acceptable to both sides. *AP - Lagos*

**R**ioting broke out in the Sudanese capital Khartoum over high food prices and bread shortages, and state-run newspapers said 35 students and workers accused of inciting weekend disturbances were to be flogged. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that despite heavy security, students poured out of university campuses and shouted anti-government slogans. Gunshots could be heard and police forces were moving to surround the protesters, Mena said. *AP - Khartoum*

**C**hancellor Helmut Kohl said his fellow Germans must never forget the horrible suffering imposed on Ukrainians - especially Jews - by German troops during Second World War. "German hands did horrible things to people here," said Mr Kohl, in a speech to Kiev university students during a trip to Ukraine and Russia. *AP - Kiev*

**M**ore than 1,000 supporters of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), the country's main opposition, celebrated the release of former president Kamuzu Banda's two closest associates. Mr Banda's aide John Tembo, his heir-apparent as MCP leader, and Mr Banda's long-time companion Cecilia Kadzandira were arrested on Monday on charges of conspiracy and attempted murder. *Reuters - Blantyre*

**C**hina plans to have the world's tallest building by 1998. A 1,499ft (450metre), 100-story building in Chongqing in south-western China will claim the record, now held by the 1,483ft Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. But work is to start soon on what is planned to be an even taller building - 140 stories - in the southern city of Guangzhou. Xinhua said. *AP - Peking*

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# The City joins the Euro-propagandists

Hysteria and hyperbole are not, it seems, the unique preserve of chorus of alarmists this week. The City out; the health of our financial services already being undermined by our hostility to the euro.

First, big-wigs in the Square Mile warned that London's position as the financial centre of Europe would be jeopardised if Britain were left out of a European single currency. Michael Cassidy of the Corporation of London even claimed that "envious" French and Germans were conspiring to write the rules of the single currency to destroy London and rebuild Frankfurt or Paris in its place.

Then, in an interview with the *Independent*, the chief executive of Mercedes Benz said he thought Britain would be a very attractive place to invest... were it not for the uncertainty surrounding the single currency.

These are strong words. At first sight they seem to boost the arguments of Euro-enthusiasts such as Kenneth Clarke, who have long feared the economic consequences of remaining outside a European currency. The costs of "being an out" rather than an "in" have suddenly changed from being the hypothetical bubble of economists to the tangible investment and trading decisions of business people and bankers.

Imagine the demise of the City of London (and its £20bn overseas earnings) and the end to lucrative inward investment - all because we opted out.

However, Keo Clarke and his ilk should be wary of allies like the Corporation of London. It is true that there are important real costs to staying out of a single currency. The British people need to consider them. But the debate this week served only to exaggerate, obscure and confuse. As such, it could even be counter-productive for the pro-European cause.

London's pre-eminence as a financial centre will not be threatened by the emergence of the euro. London is by far the biggest currency market in the world, and commands a substantial 59 per cent of the turnover in foreign equities too. The idea that Frankfurt or Paris, with their tiny market share and their very different trading culture, could lure the big banks away just because of the euro is not plausible.

The London bankers claim that the French and Germans are conspiring to construct the single currency so that it is more costly to trade in euros from Britain than from euro member states. But the rules of the single market are unlikely to permit such unfair competition, and even if they did allow it, the costs of trading in euros from London will still be marginal in comparison to the immense advantages.

Moreover, exaggerating the threat to

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the City risks discrediting and drowning out the very genuine risk to inward investment, one of the few economic success stories of the Thatcher and Major years. Factories built by the North Americans, the Japanese and East Asians, and even our fellow Europeans, have helped to rejuvenate our skill base, modernise our management practices and provide jobs in areas of high unemployment. If foreign companies locate new plants elsewhere because of the perceived advantages of a single currency area, the loss to the British economy could be considerable.

Should the French and Germans go ahead with currency union at the end of the century, the British people will have a difficult decision to make weighing the pros and cons of joining up. We will need to be realistic about the potential economic costs of opting out as well as the economic and political risks in joining a rigid monetary system. Exaggerations from particular interest groups won't increase our chances of getting the decision right.

But the claims by the Corporation of London are doubly dangerous. While the logical conclusion of its remarks is that Britain should join the euro, the logic itself is highly anti-European: the

French and the Germans are out to destroy the City. From such a standpoint, a single currency is not a constructive, co-operative European venture. It is an aggressive, competitive move cooked up by rapacious foreigners.

This picture of the plucky British democrats forced into currency union by the manoeuvrings of the French and Germans risks increasing anti-European sentiments among the British people. Even more important, it will not reassure those nervous inward investors. For it is British belligerence over Europe, as much as the structure of European currencies, which is putting investors off. The British government appears so hostile to Europe now that companies fear their chances of enjoying a single market, never mind a single currency, are jeopardised if they operate from these shores. Were we to demonstrate more determination to co-operate, work closely with our European allies and participate in Europe, we could go a long way towards reassuring inward investors - even if ultimately we decide not to join the euro.

This week should have been a welcome and important turning point in the debate over a single currency. Until now, the British public have had to make do with only the shrill xenophobia of the Euro-sceptic right, or the evasive attempts of those in the polit-

ical mainstream to delay the discussion until after the election. For the first time this week the vested interests in finance and industry started to publicise the problems they will face if Britain is isolated in Europe. What a shame that the City missed the opportunity to better the European debate, and mimicked propagandists from the other side instead.

## English homes and castles

English Heritage wants to list a score of post-war local authority developments. A boo echoes from Berwick to Brighton. Actually, there is a strong architectural case for most of the candidates. But accepting these candidates for posterity could mean riding roughshod over the principle of allowing users of buildings a say in how they are judged. The failure of some estates to provide reliable accommodation is an architectural failure, though it is also connected to council budgets and social security. Still, functional ineffectiveness is a principle we have never let stop us admiring the works of antiquity. Some of those great castles were horrible to live in and quickly stormed. And what of the Colosseum, many of whose "users" had a hard time of it?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No, we can't go on getting deeper in debt

Sir: May I congratulate you on your leader ("Whisper it: Blair may have to raise taxes", 2 September). You leave out only one point: which is that the decline of our revenue base is largely a consequence of unimpeachable cost-cutting.

All governments must count costs, but they must count them right. There is a Treasury guideline which says that any department planning to reduce spending must assess the consequent costs to the budgets of other departments. They do not observe this guideline. When they first changed the trade-off between inflation and unemployment they failed to calculate not only the consequent increase in the social security budget, but also the consequent decline in the revenue base.

Today, when they introduce cuts in the social security budget, they do not calculate costs in increased spending on crime or health, nor revenue loss by loss of future employability.

When the Government, as an employer, goes in for "downsizing," it does not calculate the consequent loss of revenue. As a result, anyone who has tried to telephone a hospital or a railway station knows that the paradigm symptom of Conservatism is unemployment and understaffing both at once. In pressing for a deregulated labour market, they have not counted the cost of having employees who receive in-work benefits instead of paying taxes.

Conservative economy which tries to save money by not mending a hole in the roof. It is an expensive habit and the sooner all parties realise it, the better.  
Earl RUSSELL  
Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Social Security,  
House of Lords,  
London SW1

Sir: Congratulations on your courage in headlining the unsustainability of present fiscal policies ("We can't go on like this", 2 September).

Your graph would be even more enlightening if it included the massive deviation between earlier optimistic projections of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and latest actual outcomes/estimates. The 1994 budget showed total growth in borrowings of £9bn for the three years from 1996/1997, whereas additional borrowing is now projected at £48bn by the Treasury's admission, or nearer £70bn by outside estimates!

Clearly, we can now see that last year's penny off income tax was irresponsible. The electorate must realise that any further income tax cuts, without painful and massive economies, would be a profligate electioneering stunt, to be paid for by swingeing future measures.  
PETER THURNHAM MP  
(Bolton North East, Independent)  
Sandal, Cumbria

Sir: The constraining effect of a deficit is not merely that it forces a government down one of two politically impossible routes. In America, the former Senate Finance Committee chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan concluded that the Reagan deficits were "strategic", in that their long-term effect would be to form a permanent barrier against social spending and other government initiatives. Thus even the modest federal infrastructure



investments which Clinton contemplated in 1992 were quickly held to be unfeasible, and he has since given up any attempt to appeal to the poor except by default.

There are, however, two kinds of deficit, affecting different constituencies. Under President Carter budget deficits were held to be irresponsible by the business community, as they were held to divert available capital away from productive private investment to maintain public expenditure. Such complaints were not heard when Reagan increased the deficit and debt several times over, through disproportionate reductions in corporate and high income taxes, and spending on social programmes. If a serious attempt were now made by Labour to increase British public expenditure on welfare, one may guarantee that Moynihan's theory would take effect and the deficit would be brought on to the agenda by the right as an argument for "fiscal responsibility".  
MARK WALMSLEY  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: The chart under your headline shows something very significant: the country's finances fluctuated but the trend was mostly upwards until about the time that John Major replaced Margaret Thatcher. After that the finances plummeted.

After too many misguided Conservative MPs had re-elected Major in the last leadership contest, just over a year ago, my opinion was that we had no more chance of winning the next general election than if they had chosen Lord Sutch. I can see no reason to change that opinion.  
R C ROSE  
Pwllheli, Gwynedd

### Decide first, consult later

Sir: Christopher Foster ("The trouble with conviction", 2 September) is right to sound a warning about government consultation and the near sham it has become - certainly in education.

"Consultation" on the recent White Paper ends on 4 October. This date, and the details of where to respond, are buried in the first chapter. A leaflet with a summary of the White Paper proposals was sent to every school. It does not even mention that these are proposals for consultation. Strong rumours suggest that legislation to implement these proposals will be introduced in October. Presumably the details are being finalised now. No wonder cynicism about our political system is so widespread.  
MARGARET TULLOCH  
Executive Secretary  
Campaign for State Education  
London SW20

### Cooled air and global warming

Sir: Andrew Warren (Letters, 2 September) is right to highlight the dilemma of climate change but wrong to identify air-conditioning as a serious offender. Carbon dioxide emissions from air-conditioning in the UK account for less than 1 per cent of the total and bear no comparison with motor vehicles, which contribute almost a quarter.

Mr Warren should be applauding electricity producers, because it is largely through their efforts the UK is one of the few countries on course to meet its obligations to reduce emissions of global warming gases by the year 2000. Further ahead, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity production in 2010 are forecast to be 25 per cent below 1990 levels. In the same period emissions from transport are expected to rise by 33 per cent.

PHILIP DAUBENEY  
Chief Executive  
The Electricity Association  
London SW1

Sir: When will someone invent a solar-powered air-conditioning unit? It is not quite perpetual motion, but adheres to the principle.  
HAMISH KUZMINSKI  
London SW4

### Young offenders beyond shame

Sir: The most objectionable aspect of the proposal to identify young offenders and thus to use shame as a correctional instrument ("Penal groups attack plan to name young offenders", 2 September) is that it will not work.

Offenders commonly come from family homes that have been fractured by poor housing and hopeless (relative) poverty, or violence, or alcohol abuse, or delinquent associates. Rates of expulsion from school are rising alarmingly, and the offenders and their parents are already so socially detached from ordinary routines

and expectations that it is pointless to threaten them with the ostracism of being named as petty criminals. Being named in a rogues' gallery will probably be seen as an emblem of toughness by many youths.

The scheme is yet another pre-election ruse under which politicians can be seen to be "tough on criminals" while really being evasive on the social causes of crime.  
Dr GARY SLAPPER  
The Law School  
Staffordshire University  
Stoke-on-Trent

### All right Polly, I can take a hint

Sir: Polly Toynbee ("Where do all the New Men go?", 2 September) may well be right in her underlying thesis, adhered to by a great many women: men are worthless.

Since men are worthless, they should be dispensed with. Step One is a euthanasia programme for all adult males, except only those 1 in 25 or so who - after DNA testing based on results from the Human Genome Project - may qualify as having a genetic make-up socially worth passing on. Step Two is to apply the DNA test to all new-born males.

Personally, having sired a brainy daughter and being hardly economically productive, I should be happy to volunteer for euthanasia. The only problem is, my wife and daughter would miss me. Yes, honestly.  
DAVID J BOGGIS  
Oxford, Kent

### Ambulances in gridlock

Sir: I presume Mr Rose, being from Gwynedd (Letters, 3 September), has never seen a fire engine or an ambulance racing to the scene in central London. The same roads are gridlocked every day, and with an average speed of 10 miles per hour it is not too difficult to imagine the problems faced by the emergency services.

The action of Reclaim the Streets would appear to be to highlight the ease with which roads can become congested and to make drivers contemplate other transport options which will leave these major arteries clear for essential traffic.  
ROBIN DUCKWORTH  
St Albans Hospital,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire

Sir: Mark Rasmussen (Letters, 3 September) observes how much better the lot of the pedestrian would be if "drivers at intersections had to wait for pedestrians to cross before turning". That is precisely what the Highway Code says they should do. Rule 103 (1993 edition) reads: "Give way to pedestrians crossing a road into which you are turning."

The problem is not the rules of road, but the near-universal ignorance and indifference to them. Whereas these vices apply to all classes of road users, drivers of motor vehicles are uniquely equipped to do damage and make a nuisance of themselves.  
IAN MILLER  
E-mail:  
Ian.Miller@biffrost.demon.co.uk

### Music lessons are for art's sake

Dear Sir: I was interested to read about the Swiss research which confirms what many of us in the trade know through experience - that music lessons can boost a child's reading ability and language development ("Look, listen and learn", 29 August).

But if those who are trying to promote music in schools seize on this "transfer effect" as evidence for the value of music in the curriculum, they are falling into the age-old trap of utilitarianism. They should instead concentrate on the fact that musical activity - the handling of non-verbal sounds in time - is a unique form of human experience, a unique way of knowing and of expression.

As music therapists can tell us, music gets through to both young and old when other channels of communication are blocked. All children, and not merely those who are "gifted", benefit from musical experiences.

If music and the other expressive arts are elbowed out of the curriculum in the political clamour for more time for the 3Rs and science, we shall be educating a generation of young people who are using, literally, only part of their brains.

Teachers need to encourage children to think not only logically, but laterally and imaginatively as well. That wider mode of thinking will stand them in good stead in adulthood, whatever their job.  
BARBARA POINTON  
Former Head of Music, Homerton College, Cambridge  
Roxton, Hertfordshire

Sir: On Saturday I found myself in the company of four young teachers ("Labour warns of acute teacher shortage", 2 September). One, an art educator, had already left school work to undertake further training. She will not return to teaching "if she can help it". All the other three, one primary and two secondary, are considering leaving the profession.

The reason? The stressful conditions under which they now work. Criticised by anyone seeking a scapegoat for social problems - the Government, parents, the media - they know how seriously they take the job they do and just how hard it has become. They also feel, by comparison with professional peers in the legal and business fields, profoundly undervalued.

The issue ties in neatly with correspondence on the need for child care at school age (Letters, 2 September). The way many parents now order their lives is seriously affecting the nature of the job that teachers do.

Try to imagine the pressure on one teacher from 30 children clamouring for the attention that two working parents are unable to give at home.  
PATRICIA GRAHAM  
Tunbridge,  
Kent

### Beloved Bridget

Sir: Does Bridget Jones exist? Does she look like the photograph beside her column (Bridget Jones's Diary, 28 August)?

If the answer to both these questions is "yes" then I would like to propose marriage - pending her return from incarceration.  
T TURKSON  
London SE5



## analysis

# The West's fantasy firepower

We have the military and technical might to deal with Saddam Hussein, but without the political will does international peacekeeping make sense, asks Patrick Cockburn

From the ground an incoming Tomahawk missile looks like a sinister black torpedo as it skims towards its target 500 feet above the ground. During the Gulf war its highly publicised ability to strike its target accurately from long distances made it a symbol of American military superiority over Iraq.

Five years on, the 27 Cruise and Tomahawk missiles fired on the orders of President Clinton yesterday at military targets in southern Iraq are more an expression of frustration and impotence. Nobody expects that they will accomplish much in reversing the impact of the takeover of Arbil, the Kurdish capital, by Saddam Hussein's newly acquired Kurdish allies backed by Iraqi tanks.

At first sight the Iraqi leader appears to have succeeded in doing what he signally failed to do when he invaded Kuwait in 1990. By withdrawing his troops rapidly he has robbed the US and its allies of a clear military and political target against which they can retaliate.

In the longer term Saddam Hussein's move may not be quite so astute. As in the past he has probably overplayed his hand. He has reassured Iraqi authority in parts of Kurdistan, but at the cost of delaying the oil-for-food plan agreed by the UN Security Council. Before the incursion into Arbil, Iraq was expected to sell 600,000 barrels of oil a day from later this month.

President Clinton is also damaged because the Iraqi attack gives international publicity to what has been evident in the Middle East for many months: that the Gulf war settlement is looking very ragged. This is not surprising. The vacuum of power that opened up when Iraqi Kurds set up a quasi-state in 1991 was always going to suck in Iran, Turkey and the Kurds' old masters in Baghdad.

Yet the US has done little in the past four years except try to freeze the situation in Iraq as it



Top guns? A US F14D support Tomcat takes off from the USS Carl Vinson in the Gulf. But the action leaves the Gulf war settlement looking decidedly ragged

Photograph: AFP

was after Saddam Hussein's defeat in Kuwait. The Kurds were not allowed to set up their own state. Members of the Foreign Office always refer to "northern Iraq", not Kurdistan. The "safe haven" for Kurds that emerged in 1991 was designed to be militarily and politically

## The 27 Cruise and Tomahawk missiles ... are more an expression of frustration and impotence

feeble, but was also supposed to be strong enough to resist pressure from Iraq and Iran.

Kurdish tribalism and warlordism is in part responsible for the civil war that started two years ago. But Massoud Barzani of the Kurdish Democratic Party and Jalal al Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish leaders

whose divisions led to renewed Iraqi intervention, were given an impossible hand to play. It was always likely that they would look for outside allies in Tehran, Baghdad and Washington to make up for their own lack of strength. President Clinton might have avoided the

return of Iraqi troops to Kurdistan if he had protested more vigorously against the invasion of northern Iraq by the Turkish army last year.

The problem for the US is that the situation in Iraq and the Middle East at the end of the Gulf war suited it all too well. Iraq was weakened, but still posed enough of a threat to

justify the American security protectorate over Saudi Arabia and the Gulf oil states. There is no doubt that Washington would like to get rid of Saddam Hussein, but it has always wanted to do so in a way which does not benefit Iran. This means preserving the Iraqi military establishment and avoiding the rise of a regime dependent on Iraqi Shia Muslims, who make up a majority of the population.

The Gulf conflict was a very conservative war. It was fought to return the Middle East to the status quo ante before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. In the weeks before the fighting started, a meeting of senior British officials, including all UK ambassadors from the Gulf, concluded that it would be counter-productive for the West and its local allies to continue on to Baghdad and overthrow Saddam. Their reasoning was that if they occupied Baghdad they would be forced to call elections within six months. These, in turn, would be likely to produce a democratic government dominated by the Shia and possibly sympathetic to Iran. Nothing could be more destabilising to the Sunni Muslim rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain.

President Clinton's difficulty is that the Gulf war was sold as a democratic venture. A regime that flaunts its brutality as much as possible, like that of Saddam Hussein, is not difficult to demonise. This brutality had not prevented the US, Britain and most West European countries from cultivating Iraq dur-

ing the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. But in the lead-up to the Gulf conflict allied propaganda focused on the undoubted savagery of Iraqi torturers in Kuwait. Once the war was under way, the flight of the Kurds through their snow-covered mountains in the wake of their failed rebellion was flashed onto television screens across the world. Not surprisingly, viewers got the impression that the war was being fought, at least in part, for the sake of Iraqi self-determination. It will be difficult for Washington to stand to one side while Iraqi Kurdistan once again falls under the sway of Baghdad.

A further problem for the Gulf war allies is that their original military victory was over-sold. The image of the war presented by the allied military was of clinical efficiency. In the first hours of the allied air attack, missiles and smart bombs were shown smashing into telecommunications towers in Baghdad. Video film was taken by attacking aircraft showing bridges over the Tigris and Euphrates erupting as they were hit. Here was war without civilian casualties.

This was always misleading. Allied claims were exaggerated. Pilots claimed that in the Western Desert of Iraq they had hit 90 Scud launchers that were firing at Israel. An official report, sponsored by the US air force after the war, concluded that the real figure was nil. The pictures which had been shown on video by the attacking aircraft showed that most of the targets destroyed were flatbed

trucks or petrol tankers on the road to Jordan driven by Filipinos. Iraq lost more than 2,000 tanks in the war, but when a sample of these were examined by allied experts they concluded that only 10 per cent of these had been destroyed from the air. The rest had sim-

ply been abandoned by their crews. These exaggerated accounts have been criticised in American official reports since the war. The latest, by the Government Accounting Office, revealed that the Stealth bombers had been far less effective than claimed at the time. The author of the report is believed to have spent one year writing it and three years trying to get permission to publish it. Yet the original picture of the war as portrayed by US television in the euphoria of victory has never disappeared.

President Clinton had to order the firing of Cruise and Tomahawk missiles yesterday because they are still associated in the minds of the American public with the bloodless victory in the Gulf. In practice they are likely to be ineffective. The real lesson of the Gulf war was that "smart" weapons work against fixed targets that are clearly identifiable. But in Iraq – and in any other country – these are likely to be in short supply.

ing is no more effective than when Britain first tried to bomb the Kurdish tribes into submission under the direction of Arthur "Bomber" Harris in the 1920s.

The attraction of bombing then is the same as the use of missiles now: they minimise casualties to our side. Harris promised that Kurdistan could be policed by using airpower alone. Cruise and Tomahawk missiles have the advantage that there is not even a pilot to be killed or captured. This limits the political danger to any government using them, even when, as in this case, they are unlikely to do anything to intimidate Saddam Hussein.

The danger is, of course, that reality catches up. In the Gulf war an attempt to kill Saddam Hussein in the Amariya shelter in Baghdad led to the deaths of 500 women and children. Israeli officers openly proclaimed at the start of the bombardment of Lebanon earlier this year that Operation Grapes of Wrath was modelled on the Gulf war air offensive.

One thing I would like to know. Why, if the Tories wanted to show that Tony Blair has wild, mad, staring eyes, did they not use the eyes of Tony Blair himself, instead of the eyes of an actor?

It was a joke that went wrong. The original idea was to use the eyes of Michael Heseltine in the advertisement, on the grounds that the Tories had the wildest eyes of all right on their own doorstep. Why didn't this happen? Mr Heseltine wanted to charge too much money for the use of his eyes. Why didn't they use the mad, cold, staring eyes of John Redwood? Unfortunately, Mr Redwood was away on holiday at the time

Given the failure of the US Patriot missiles to bring down Iraqi Scuds aimed at Israel, this took a certain amount of self-deception on the part of the Israeli armed forces. But for military and political leaders in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the idea of a war in which no Israelis died was too attractive to turn down. Only when Israeli shells killed 101 Lebanese refugees at Qana did the rest of the world realise that claims of clinical accuracy were as spurious as ever.

The missile attacks will have no impact on Iraq. Expanding the no-fly zone in southern Iraq is likely to be equally ineffective. The failure of the northern no-fly zone has been demonstrated by the easy Iraqi conquest of Arbil. The Kurdish capital is on flat ground and could never be defended against Iraqi tanks – even if they were not aided by the guerrillas of Mr Barzani's KDP. In the south of Iraq the no-fly zone, imposed in 1992, has always been farcical. It has wholly failed to prevent Saddam Hussein draining the marshes where the Tigris and Euphrates meet and expelling the villagers who live there.

The Gulf war in Iraq and Grapes of Wrath have once again demonstrated the limits of air power as a method of enforcing political control. But this is not to say that Saddam Hussein's huge m to Kurdistan is likely to prove strategically sound from Iraq's point of view. It resembles his invasion of Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990 in that it is too public a humiliation of his enemies. They are bound to respond by delaying, probably for a long time, permission for Iraq to export a limited quantity of oil. The US will put intense pressure on Turkey, which seemed the weakest link in the cordon of hostile states around Iraq, to continue enforcing sanctions.

As with the invasions of Iran and Kuwait, Saddam has made a tactical gain, but at what may be heavy strategic cost. The civil war in Kurdistan is not going to end. Jalal al-Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, is bound to counter-attack. The US will put pressure on Mr Barzani to end his alliance with Baghdad. Saddam Hussein may come to regret his renewed entanglement in Kurdistan, but for reasons that have nothing to do with Cruise or Tomahawk missiles.

Yesterday's article by Andrew Brown, "Can Prozac destroy our free will?", was based on an interview with John Cornwell, whose book, *Mind, Medicine and Murder on Trial*, will be published by Viking on September 16, price £18.

## President Clinton's difficulty is that the Gulf war was sold as a democratic venture

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## For mad adverts, the Tory eyes have it

The Tories are not going to call an election this year, are they? They have said they won't. Does that mean they will or they won't?

It could mean either. So they might be telling the truth? Oh, yes. By the law of averages, even the Government tells the truth from time to time.

Well, if the Tories are not going to call a general election this year, why on earth did they choose this summer to indulge in their advertising campaign showing Tony Blair with mad, staring eyes?

Oh, that was nothing to do with their election strategy. That was all part of their holiday campaign.

What does that mean? When the Government goes on holiday, it likes to leave some trouble behind it as a kind of smokescreen so that they won't be required to come racing back from their Tuscan, Umbrian or Provencal vacation.

So that's why they did that

ridiculous ad campaign showing Tony Blair with wild staring eyes, portraying him as Satan, etc?

Yes. They thought they would stir up enough trouble over that to distract attention from anything else that might offend their real attention.

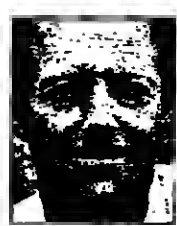
Like prisoners being released from prison too early?

Yes. That was the unfortunate kind of accident that no government likes to have happen during the summer holidays.

Which necessitated Michael Howard coming back early from his holidays? No. He was back already. Michael Howard never takes holidays. He spends all his time in the office working on new ways to overwork the police and prison services. But at least Mr Howard was able to call the heads of the prison services back from their holidays.

Which made a change from the silly season...

Hold on, hold on. Are you suggesting that this is the silly season?



Myles Kington

Yes. Isn't that so? Isn't summer the time when all the politicians are on holiday, so the papers have nothing to report but silly news?

No, no, no – the exact opposite is true. It is when the politicians are around that we get true silliness.

The soap opera season of British politics lasts for 10 months, and it is then that we get all the silly stories – Harriet Harman's child, Tony Blair's schools, Clare Short, Euro-rebels, John Redwood's leadership bid, Michael Portillo's anything, and so on and so on. In the brief two months of summer we get a rest from all that and the British press gets sensible

just for a moment. I have never known why it was called the silly season.

It wasn't very sensible this year, what with Tony Blair's staring eyes and all that.

Well, I must say that if the Tories choose to fight the next election on who has the maddest eyes, they are leaving themselves wide open.

One thing I would like to know. Why, if the Tories wanted to show that Tony Blair has wild, mad, staring eyes, did they not use the eyes of Tony Blair himself, instead of the eyes of an actor?

It was a joke that went wrong. The original idea was to use the eyes of Michael Heseltine in the advertisement, on the grounds that the Tories had the wildest eyes of all right on their own doorstep.

Why didn't this happen? Mr Heseltine wanted to charge too much money for the use of his eyes.

Why didn't they use the mad, cold, staring eyes of John Redwood?

Unfortunately, Mr Redwood was away on holiday at the time

in another galaxy many millions of miles from ours.

Why didn't they use the mad staring spectacles of Michael Howard?

Tony Blair doesn't wear spectacles. Why didn't they take off Michael Howard's spectacles and use his mad staring eyes for the Tony Blair poster?

Michael Howard never takes off his spectacles.

Why not? Because that would reveal that he had on eyes.

If Michael Howard doesn't have eyes, what does he have instead?

Behind those mad, staring spectacles, Michael Howard has only got tiny round close circuit security cameras, and a complicated autoco system which enables him to make long rahle-raising speeches without looking at a script or indeed without thinking.

Is that true?

No. But it is an idea that the Labour Party has been toying with seriously for its next ad campaign.

هكذا من الأصل



# Sorted for textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb

'Alcopop' drinks should not make us fret about teenage boozing, but about marketing taking over the good night out

You may have noticed there are some vile alcoholic drinks about. They look and taste disgusting and are consumed by strangely dressed types. Such that they get you out of your head. They are named things like Headcracker, Sneek and GBH. Do they encourage alcoholism? Quite possibly, but as men drink them no smashed seem cool and grown-up? Yes, if beards and beer bellies signify maturity.

No, what we like to get worked up about is another kind of alcohol altogether. The "alcopops", the soft options that disguise the hard drinking that young people, especially young women, get up to. It is all a cynical marketing campaign to turn the nation's youth into lushes. And here's another one. A tangerine hair gel disguised as something you want to knock back while you are dancing around your handbag. Or while you're desperately trying to pull those dancing around their handbags. Or you've given up all hope and want something for bladdered people rather than

beautiful people. In other words - the words of the marketing reptiles - it should appeal to "the dance-floor element." A refreshing little "textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb" from Carlsberg-Tetley delicately called Thickhead. It's interesting in a Spacedust sort of way and is hyped as an essential feature of a fun night out. I think the essential feature of a fun night is being sick in bins at bus-stops, but I'm out in PR.

Actually no one could drink masses of this without gagging so the comparison with real ale holds up. Thickhead has done away with those dubious macho anxieties about the authenticity of booze. These oew drinks are fizzy, fluorescent, infantile, saccharin-sweet and do a brilliant job of disguising the nasty taste of alcohol. While grown-ups may bore on about good wine, the sad truth is most of us would down a bottle of vinegar if it said Fleurette on the label and some hyperactive hint on TV said it reminded her of Chanel No 5. Indeed the much-maligned alcopops are unpretentious little numbers which just zap you with their artificiality. Just what you'd expect from such post-modern little potions.



SUZANNE MOORE

They also come pre-packaged with a little post-modern moral panic about drinking and young people. Never mind the research which says that, as always, if teenagers want to get drunk, which they do, they spend their money on that which will get them drunk fastest - beer and cider. This new panic is imbued with the kind of memory lapses that one associates with progressive drinking. There have always been things like alcopops, but they were called shandy, lager-and-lime, cider-and-black.

It is not just lad culture in both its male and female incarnations that encourages excess. The gulf between oew lad and old

oaf was never as big and bold and bad as everybody liked to pretend. If it was, how come you could buy Oliver Reed T-shirts at the Great British Beer Festival?

The earnest worry about children being lured into "offies" to buy alcopops because honestly they just didn't realise that these drinks had alcohol in them is premised on denial - denial about the culture our kids grow up in, where every soft drink is sold as if it were a hallucinogen, in which imagery, graphic design, video have been under the influence of rave culture for a good few years now; denial about statistics that show that legal and illegal drugs are simply part of everyday experience for the majority of young people. This is not the same as saying that all young people take drugs and drink, but some of them do some of the time. Just like the rest of us. Some lives will be wrecked because of it and some will be enhanced because of it. Among 11- to 15-year-olds, 17 per cent drink regularly and the majority do not have much disposable income. They are not the "repetitive drinkers" of club 18-30.

The logical conclusion of niche market-

ing is that new consumer groups have to be aggressively sought out. Drug dealers do it relatively openly; the drinks industry has taken to spiking lemonade in order to achieve its ends. Which is the more hypocritical?

What is most objectionable about these new products is that they no longer exist outside of the marketing loop. The line between product and packaging is blurred. The package, the trends, the inane definitions are conceived and a product invented to fit the bill. Portfolio products for portfolio times matching our taste for portfolio politics.

So don't worry your hangover heads about little girls drinking puke-flavoured Flavours for Ravers but ask yourself what happens when beliefs are replaced by "conceptual currents": when a good night out depends on a selection of chemicals "specifically styled to match the radically revised cultural concerns of pre-millennial youth culture". It's enough to make you yearn for the good old days when Jarvis's melancholy little refrain "Sorted for Es and whizz" sounded just like the real thing.

## You can't cure an adrenalin junkie

Danger, for some, is just too irresistible, says Charles Arthur

I am 80 feet up a sheer cliff, with one foot on a ledge about as wide as a finger, the other dangling, while I try to get my sweating hands to cling to the bulging rock in front of my face. I am breathing hard, and very scared. Some feet above I can see a break in the rock, the next hold I am aiming for. If I don't reach it, I'll surely fall off - probably 10 or 15 feet, until the ropes attached to my waist stop me, and bang me into the cliff. It'll certainly hurt. I can almost hear the adrenalin washing through my head. It's wonderful. A great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Stephen Thornley doubtless knew the feeling, too. He was the British leader of a mountaineering expedition in Pakistan, an experienced climber who with two colleagues was declared dead this week after being hit by an avalanche.

Afterwards, Stephen's father said: "I was hoping he would do this and then give it up." The truth, however, is that for many people such sports are the only way to make life worth living. If Stephen had conquered that peak, he would have had his sights set on others, too. The common phrase is "adrenalin junkie": someone addicted to the high of real danger.

Cave-diving, potholing, rock climbing, motorbike and stock-car racing, cliff-diving, hang-gliding - all carry inherent risks, which to their devotees make them delicious in an increasingly safe world, where drugs have conquered old diseases, and better engineering has made cars and airplanes far safer than in the post-war years.

There are fatalities in all these sports, yet the really dangerous activities are those that we do not usually class as risky. Diving and swimming, along with horse-riding and rugby, cause far more broken necks than any "risk" sport. A higher proportion of people who swim beyond their depth off the British coast die than in mountaineering.

So why don't we talk of equestrianism, rugby and swimming in the same breath as cave-diving? Nobody looks at a rugby game and declares that it looks like a prime place for a serious injury, yet anyone gazing into the dank mouth of a pothole knows of a visceral level that it can't be a good place to get caught when the rain starts. Equally, people think that bungee-jumping is a harmless thrill, rather than a real risk - unaware of the fact that the shock at the bottom of the fall can damage the retina. To a real adrenalin junkie, it's the latter fact that would make the jump worthwhile.

At a time when we're surrounded by safety, hemmed in by cotton wool and told not to open interesting latches and intriguing doors, it's perverse and pointless to do dangerous things - which is exactly why some people have to do it. Stephen Thornley wasn't the first, and he won't be the last.

# Do women deserve the vote?

The female vote has kept the Conservatives in office. Can Tony Blair expect a change next time?

Women are to blame. They are like turkeys voting for Christmas: when they get into the polling booth they lose their heads. It is not at all clear that the suffragettes did Britain much good, for if they had not chained themselves to the railings we would have been spared the past 17 years of Tory government. If women never had the vote, there would have been no Conservative government since the war. (Not altogether a good idea either, perhaps).

Why is the polling image of British women something akin to Hyacinth Bucket? Analysing the 1992 election, MORI says the Conservatives had a 7 per cent lead among women, and that gender gap has stayed remarkably static since the Second World War. New Labour puts its faith in a new appeal to women voters: Blair, after all, is not laddish like Kinnock. But MORI say they see no sign of any significant shift: an aggregate of nine polls in the past three months still shows the gender gap at 7 per cent.

How should Labour politicians seduce women? Evidence from focus groups and polls is glum news. Women are not interested and know even less about politics. They hate arguments. They are less likely to remember what a politician said on television five minutes afterwards. They hate old Labour's cloth-cap image because it is not aspirational enough. They hate jargon and statistics but like to be talked to gently in parables that reflect their own lives. They don't like risks - and a change of government is a risk.

Politicians have to be polite about the voters, but the rest of us don't. What a dismal portrait of womanhood. Stupid, insular, selfish - nature's conservatives - is that it? I have to admit that this is not altogether news to those who have ever tried to mobilise women. In the heady days of women's liberation, the idea that we were going to mould women into a revolutionary cadre was always comical. Women are conservative with an infuriating tendency to be their own worst enemies (not all women, of course). They may be very good grumblers - they have plenty to grumble about - but grumbling is not a revolution.



POLLY TOYNBEE

Tessa Jowell, until recently Labour's Minister for Women - oow promoted to something less depressing - has been on a nationwide tea-crawl around the Women's Institutes. Townswomen's Guilds and their ilk. She has been, she says, "listening to women" - an old politician's trick when you desperately want to win votes, but reckon you are probably on a hiding to nothing if you open your mouth.

She listened to women complaining bitterly at their multiple burdens - struggling to care for children and old people while working as well. "They wanted fathers to do more, but they didn't expect the culture to change." She found women full of fear of society falling apart, alarmed at what they saw as a collapsing social order with crime and paedophilia lurking on every street corner. The world was changing too fast and for the worse. Insecurity was everywhere.

Labour hope they can turn the blame for all that onto the Tories - and Tessa Jowell did find evidence that these women did partly blame a decline in community, in schools and the NHS on the Tories. But it still sounds instinctively conservative - a view of the world where change is dangerous and Labour may look like the devil you don't know.

Feminists smugly extol women's infinite superiority, mothers are best, men behave badly. Men are selfish, belligerent, sports-fixated emotional zeros who don't have real friends and don't know they are born. Matchmaking, says the myth, would mean peace on earth and bonding with nature. But on this evidence women can be every bit as awful as men - in their own way.

There are, however, glimmers of hope on the horizon for Labour. Young women aged 18-34 are more

likely to vote Labour than young men. But once they reach the 35-55 age group, they become three per cent less likely to vote Labour. Among over-55s, the gender gap yawns into a chasm and 22 per cent more older women vote Conservative.

The great question for Labour's future is this: are young women a new breed who will remain more pro-Labour as they grow older? Or will they turn Conservative, like their mothers and grandmothers before them? Naturally Labour believes that young women are different. Unlike their mothers, they are not frightened of Labour as they cannot remember the last Labour government. The winter of discontent is all Shakespeare to them. Over-mighty trade unions bearing down on a threatened democracy is about as scary to them as the memory of dinosaurs. They will, Labour says, stay Labour as they grow older.

Another straw in the wind: a recent Opinion Research Business poll revealed that one third of 35-44 year old women who voted Conservative last time do not intend to do so this time (though they are still dithering). New polling evidence from the Fawcett Society, to be published next Monday, will suggest that the gender gap is the widest among the lowest social groups - with many more DE women voting Conservative than DE men. AB women and men vote much the same.

However, Labour might draw most hope from across the Atlantic, where women have become markedly more likely to vote Democrat. As the US election gets into its final stretch Bill Clinton is leading among women voters by a spectacular margin. If he wins, it will be because of women, amongst whom he is ahead by 16 per cent, while Dole leads by 6 per cent among male voters.

It was not always so. In the 1950s American women voted as their husbands or fathers told them. That began to change in the 1960s and 70s. Since 1990 the gap has widened sharply. A survey last year found that two thirds of women voted differently from their husbands. Many men don't know that - half of them thought their wives voted as they did. Over the years similar surveys in Britain found men assuming their



wives voted with them, but in the secrecy of the polling booth more women were sneaking off to vote Tory. The treacherous women's vote may explain why so many voters lie to pollsters.

When women voters stayed home in the 1994 US Congressional elections, the Republicans swept in. But women are rallying to Clinton again because of his pro-abortion policy, his brave stand on gun and tobacco controls and women voters like Hillary Clinton. In America, a powerful Democratic women's organisation has

been urging women to get out there and vote, with the rousing slogan, "When Women Vote, Women Win!" In Britain, however, although more women bother to vote than men, the opposite has been true until now. When women vote, women lose: they vote Tory although Labour has always had apparently a more pro-women platform, from equal opportunities to welfare and a minimum wage. But are British women voters about to follow their American sisters, and for the first time march to the left?

THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

Logic is the sort of subject that can make you want to grab an accountancy text for light relief. But when Aristotle began the field, he offered an exciting concept of logic as an automatic reasoning machine for generating fresh insights.

First you had to work out which forms of reasoning made sense, and which didn't. If someone says that today's Prime Minister is named John Major, and then picks anybody from the street who happens to share that unfortunate name, and marches that person and all other Major name-alikes down to 10 Downing Street to take over, you would suspect that something had gone seriously awry. But if the reasoning is, say, that all future prime ministers must give the appearance of not being xenophobic maniacs, and then you see Michael Portillo give his Tehbit imitation, and so conclude, mercifully, that Mr Portillo cannot be a future Prime Minister, then you have a sound reasoning pattern of the sort that Aristotle labelled a syllogism.

Working through all the possible three-part syllogisms, Aristotle observed, there are 256 possibilities, only some of which are valid (leading from true premises to true conclusions). When you're arguing with someone, or just trying to

work something out, you look at the list, see which syllogism matches the thoughts you're expressing, and then check if that syllogism is valid or not.

It sounds a roundabout way of working but it's an excellent way to pick up hidden assumptions. It's also convenient for highlighting new knowledge: you scoop through the universe, loading up your syllogisms with interesting data, and listening to see which ones clink accurately into place. When Warren Buffet, for example, says that you should invest in a company any idiot can run, because one day an idiot will, then you have a flight path directing you to hunt out a suitable "idiot-proof" company to invest in.

Unfortunately the syllogisms seemed such an impressive way of giving authority to an argument, that they largely ended up being used as a scaffolding for results that had already been worked out, most notably with Thomas Aquinas's 13th-century backing of Catholic theology. Only from the late 19th century was a fresh approach taken, with the development of a symbolic logic that could transcribe thoughts or mathematics with much finer detail.

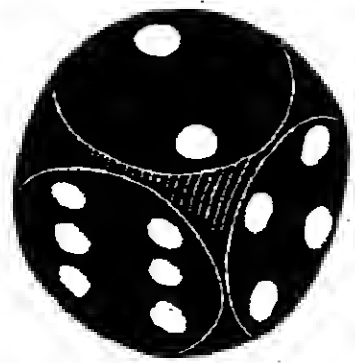
The results seem odd, like a silly bunch of squiggles, at first glance. But the marks made by modern logicians are simply a



WEEK 5 DAY 3  
Logic

VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

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compact way of notating such assertions as "For any x, if x exists, and if x is the king of France, and if x is bald, then the king of France is bald". (An example used by Bertrand Russell in his analysis of the logic of existence.) It's so pedantic that you can see why working scientists almost never use formal logic to develop new ideas.

But the pedantry reduces what's being said to a clean skeleton core, written in a form that even the lowest-IQ electronic circuits can follow. Computers positively thrive on such exact switching, which is why their early development depended, crucially, on the exploration of Peano, Russell and other logicians early in this century.

Since then logic has developed in many ways. One way of deciding if Ronald Reagan really was responsible for winning the Cold War by raising Pentagon budgets is to explore the logic of "possible worlds", where you run the historical tape forward several times. In one version you would look at the world where an unknown named Lehed led a coup against Gorbachev and matched Reagan's spending; in another, there would be the world where Reagan's ouder policies led to the war which destroyed 99 per cent of all earth life in the Great Cataclysm of 1985, etc.

A different approach takes on the logic of ordinary reasoning. Don Norman has been especially good at showing how there's one sort of logic, call it engineering logic, where all the dials for a stove's burners should be laid out in a neat straight line, yet there's a second sort of logic, call it "familiarity" logic, where what we really want are for the dials to be arranged in a miniature copy of the burners' layout so we can remember which ones to turn.

None of this would have surprised Aristotle. Along with his writings on syllogisms he explored ordinary reasoning patterns at length: the egocentric world of young people, the prejudice-flatterings of politicians, the reflex for the familiar and comfortable, are all in there. Without realising it, he wasn't that far from the computer. The huge tableau of 256 possible syllogisms he outlined is a crude early precursor of a micro-processor with 256K units of memory. The number's the same, for they're both built up from the same multiplied sequences of rigid switchings and sub-switchings - which is what his logic, with its hunt for an ideal knowledge machine, automatically chugged out those 2,300 years ago.

Tomorrow: Ethics

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[illegible]



## Morgan may have broken SIB rules

JILL TREANOR  
Banking Correspondent

Peter Young, the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell fund manager at the centre of investigations into irregularities involving £1.4bn worth of funds, vastly exceeded regulatory limits for the amount which could be invested in unquoted securities.

This emerged yesterday as it became apparent that the hole left in funds managed by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management on behalf of 90,000 investors may exceed £150m by some margin.

Under guidelines issued by the Securities and Investments Board, unit trusts may normally invest only 10 per cent of their funds in unlisted securities.

But up to 28 per cent of one of his funds, Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust, was invested in unquoted securities at the end of May, according to the unit trust's annual report.

The annual report also appeared to show that the holdings by the trust in unquoted and quoted companies exceeded regulatory guidelines than investments should amount to no more than 10 per cent of their issued share capital.

Fund managers may be able to exceed their 10 per cent limit if they can prove to their trustees - in this case the newly appointed Royal Bank of Scotland - that the companies in which they are taking stakes

are in the process of gaining stock market listings through privatisations or flotations.

Sources close to Morgan Grenfell insisted last night that this was the case with the funds managed by Mr Young.

Morgan Grenfell had continued to market the once-highly successful fund, along with two others, amassing 90,000 investors in them, before the three were suspended on Monday because of "possible irregularities on certain unquoted securities".

Those investors, in limbo yesterday, looked set to receive some good news by today with Morgan Grenfell expected to resume quotations in the funds.

"We are working as quickly as we can to get them up and running as soon as possible," said a fund spokeswoman, Judy Delafosse.

"We have assurances from the company that no investors will lose their money. No unit trust has ever been declared in default," she said.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management said on Monday it would meet its liabilities on any of the irregularities identified, which are believed to be substantial with sources insisting that losses of at least £150m may have to be footed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as a result of problems with valuing these unquoted securities.

Highly regarded Mr Young, 38, ran another of the funds in

which dealings were suddenly halted at the start of the week.

Dublin-listed Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund.

Another manager, Stewart Arner, who has not been suspended, ran the other troubled fund - Morgan Grenfell Europa. But other heads may yet roll, sources said, already expected bonuses to be cut. Europa was the top performing fund last year, according to performance measurement firm Micropal. But by August this year it had crashed down through Micropal's league tables to 95th place.

Morgan Grenfell European Growth was second to Europa in 1995 but had fallen to 127th at the start of August, giving a negative return of close to 10 per cent.

Peter Jeffries, the managing director of Fund Research Limited, said he thought the European Growth fund had started building its exposure to unquoted securities last autumn.

"It has been significantly reduced since the annual report at the end of May," Mr Jeffries said, noting that only in the last several months had the fund's performance been hit.

"The proportion in unlisted securities started to build up in August last year. I was surprised about the proportion invested ... but understood it was a short-term phenomenon".



In the spotlight: Peter Young is helping Imro investigators unravel what happened to two funds Photograph: Investment Week

## Fund manager asked for removal of trustees

Speculation is rife concerning Peter Young's role in replacement of GA last June. Nic Cicutti reports

Peter Young, European fund manager and a director at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, requested the "retirement", or resignation, of the suspended UK funds' trustees, the insurer General Accident, in late June this year.

The usual reason for the retirement of a fund's trustee, which can take place at any time, is that the fund manager believes that trustee services can be obtained more cheaply or efficiently elsewhere. General Accident is believed to have been replaced as trustee by Royal Bank of Scotland.

One City fund manager, who would not be named, said: "It is

hypothetically possible for someone to sack trustees in order to cover something up or because of other disputes with them. But this is unlikely because they would soon be found out."

As hundreds of worried Morgan Grenfell investors jammed the fund manager's switchboard for the second day running, the company gave out scant details of events leading to the suspension of its two UK unit trusts and one Dublin fund.

Meanwhile, speculation centred on the health of Mr Young, who is currently suspended

from work by his employers.

Mr Young, 38, has been helping Imro, the fund managers' regulator, unravel what happened to the Morgan Grenfell European Growth and Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth funds, the two trusts he managed.

One financial adviser, who would not be named, was yesterday telling his clients, many of whom contacted him as well as Morgan Grenfell, that Mr Young "has retired due to ill health". It is believed this information was passed to him by company sources.

Mr Young was described by colleagues as a hard-working and conscientious fund manager. Married with two children, he has in the past impressed observers with his fund management style. In June, he was awarded the prestigious European Investment Manager of the Year award, by Investment Week. Morgan Grenfell scooped a separate award as Fund Manager of the Year.

Lawrence Gosling, editor of Investment Week, said: "My experience of him is that despite the fall in the value of the

funds he managed, there was no sense of panic at all. He told us that he expected it to happen and had extremely good reasons for it. "Either he was very cool or he was a consummate liar."

An Oxford University mathematics graduate, Mr Young joined Equity & Law, the life company, in 1980, in order to train as an actuary. Two years later, before completing his training, he switched to the company's fund management side, where he rapidly rose through the ranks. One former colleague, who worked alongside him for several

years, said: "He was very competent, liked by those whom he worked alongside and he took his investment responsibilities here very seriously. He was very diligent. I am very surprised to read of what happened."

Mr Young, who even then specialised in European equities, was headhunted in 1990 to join Mercury Asset Management, which he left two years later for Morgan Grenfell. He joined the European investment team at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, which has £70bn under management.

MGAM, which is headed by Keith Percy, operates through five separate subsidiaries, including the international division.

The international division is headed by Glyn Owen, and has about £10bn under management. Mr Young directly managed about £1.25bn in assets on behalf of more 70,000 investors, while a further £133m was in the other suspended fund, Morgan Grenfell Europa.

In the past year, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, as the company has renamed itself, has acquired a name for itself as one of the most aggressive operating in the City.

He also launched an attack on Government's "abysmally low" level of spending on roads and transport. If spending continued at this rate, it would damage the competitiveness of UK industry, he said. It was not good enough to expect the Government's private finance initiative to bail the country out. Investment column, page 18

## Mercedes warns UK is scaring away investors

ELISABETH KLEIN  
and DIANE COYLE

Britain's lack of commitment to European Monetary Union is scaring away potential investors, claims Helmut Werner, chief executive of the German car giant Mercedes-Benz.

Mr Werner said yesterday: "We can't plan to invest in Britain within the next few years. But I am totally convinced that if the UK takes part in a single European currency, Britain will be a very, very interesting country for Mercedes to invest in."

He warned that earnings on investments in Britain, if it stayed out of the single currency, would become much more unpredictable than in countries belonging to EMU.

This would have damaging consequences for British companies as well, he believes. "UK suppliers would become incal-

culation to us. Due to possible ups and downs of the pound we would not know how much their products will cost us over a longer period. A free floating pound wouldn't support the British economy."

Since last year he, like a lot of other German managers, has become sensitised to currency risks. The big losses Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes parent, had to face last year were influenced to an extent by the strong mark.

Mr Werner said: "We Germans suffer from a strong mark for 11 months of the year. It is only in the 12th month when we go for cheap holidays in Italy that we are happy about our hard currency."

Mr Werner began to "globalise" Mercedes production in 1993, starting with its commercial vehicle division. The company plans to do the same with its passenger cars side.

He would prefer a united European money policy. France, pushing strongly towards Monetary Union, has already profited. Mercedes has decided to manufacture its new low-priced "smart-car" in France.

But Mr Werner, boss of nearly 200,000 Mercedes employees, emphasised what Britain can offer inward investors. "In the last 10 years the deregulated British economy has undergone some very positive developments, which have made it a very interesting market for us to invest in."

His remarks coincided with the release of new research showing that a quarter of Britain's manufacturing output is produced by foreign-owned companies, up from less than one-fifth in 1986. The increase has been driven by European investment, with EU, Swiss and Swedish firms accounting for two-fifths of the total.



Helmut Werner: Hard to use suppliers if UK outside EMU

The research, by Professor Steve Davies at the University of East Anglia, shows the Japanese account for only 7 per cent of total manufacturing output, and is heavily concentrated in a few industries. US multinationals remain most significant. The number of big EU multinationals producing in Britain increased from 13 to 27 between 1986 and 1993. There are now 15 European firms in Britain's top 100 companies.

## Of tel attacks BT in competition row

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

The simmering row between BT and the industry watchdog, Of tel, over allegations of anti-competitive behaviour exploded yesterday when the regulator, Don Cruickshank, rapped the company for making "misleading or just plain inaccurate" claims about rivals.

In an unusually strongly worded statement Mr Cruickshank issued an order forcing BT to tighten up the activities of its marketing team. He said there was "a very serious gap between BT's statements of good intent about trading fairly and statements made by customer-facing staff which are unsubstantiated".

Of tel investigated a formal complaint by the Consumers' Association after Which? magazine published transcripts of interviews with staff in BT stores

and on special phone lines set up to deal with customers contemplating switching to cable firms. The watchdog said out of a total of 48 interviews, 30 were "unsatisfactory from a fair trading point of view".

Mr Cruickshank has previously welcomed moves by BT to beef up staff training and had been particularly pleased with the creation of a special department to deal with compliance matters. But yesterday he said these actions had not been enough, accusing the company of neglecting internal compliance procedures, a lapse which he said "favours BT by frustrating customer choice".

While admitting to "occasional lapses" by staff, BT vehemently denied it had deliberately misled customers. A spokesman said it had only detected two "genuine" occasions in the Which? evidence where employees had overstepped the mark.

## finance & legal

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STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3855.90	-28.50	-0.7	3918.70	3632.30
FTSE 250	4398.40	-28.60	-0.6	4588.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1930.90	-18.90	-0.7	1960.50	1816.60
FT All Share	2158.21	-6.20	-0.3	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1908.89	-18.13	-0.7	1936.24	1791.55
New York	5632.85	+16.84	+0.3	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	20198.15	+91.04	+0.5	22866.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10957.18	-149.99	-1.3	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2510.77	-22.11	-0.9	2583.49	2253.36

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
5.69	5.00	7.91	7.93	8.08	8.00
5.34	6.28	6.86	6.19	7.13	6.19
0.53	0.59	3.00	2.98	-	-
3.09	3.31	8.40	6.58	7.14	-

CURRENCIES					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
£/\$	1.5679	+0.0046	+0.3	1.5774	1.5574
£/¥	1.5579	-0.23c	-0.01	1.5588	1.5574
DM/\$	2.3274	+0.0061	+0.3	2.3287	2.3274
¥/\$	171.256	+1.113	+0.6	172.235	170.235
£/DM	85.8	+0.3	+0.3	84.8	84.8

هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



# City has nothing to fear from monetary union



**COMMENT**

The City is an ingenious place. It is no accident that the main market in bond futures is in London, not Frankfurt, for London is where it is done best.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, is a fine fellow in many respects, but he really does talk a lot of nonsense when he sounds off about the danger European Monetary Union poses to the City's position as Europe's pre-eminent financial centre. He's been at it again this week, warning that the new settlement system for large scale transactions in the euro could cost the City thousands of jobs.

Now there is no doubt that a major league row is going on behind the scenes between the likely "ins" and the "outs" about access to this system. The two most committed ins, Germany and France, want the City to pay more for using Target (the system's acronym) than the ins. They also want the European Central Bank to charge the City more for the provision of short term liquidity in the euro. The likely outs led by Britain, argue that this is discriminatory and against both the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Rome. Plainly, this is an issue of some importance, otherwise the Bank of England would not be in there arguing about it at single currency meetings being held under the umbrella of the European Monetary Institute.

But its significance is actually more political than commercial. The ins have taken the view that anyone not wholly with them is against them and they are determined to penalise these wayward souls on every available front. This is but one of them. Exag-

geration? Just a little, but not much. The "them and us" mentality seems to permeate every aspect of negotiations about monetary union.

With Target, there is also a subtext. By dis-advantaging London, there's just a chance, German and French policy makers believe, that financial markets might start gravitating to Frankfurt and Paris. This is what Mr Cassidy is talking about when he warns about the threat to jobs in the City. In practice, however, it is highly unlikely that a marginal difference in the cost of settlement is going significantly to alter London's competitive position. Alternative methods of providing adequate liquidity will be found. Indeed, because London will not be obliged to meet the stringent capital requirements of the ins, there may actually be some advantage in being out.

The City is an ingenious place. It is no accident that the main market in bond futures is in London, when logically it ought to be in Frankfurt, for London is where the traders are and like to live, this is where the systems and infrastructure exist, and this as a consequence is where it is done best.

The City has always thrived because it is out rather than in. It has a thousand year tradition of loyalty to none but itself. And that is also why, once the great bandwagon of monetary union starts rolling down the runway proper, sterling will become as much an irrelevance for the City as it is for the rest of Europe - an exotic little inflation prone cur-

rency. The City has survived and prospered on events far more traumatic than the arrival of the euro. For the City at least, Monetary Union is not much of an issue at all.

## A blow to the reputation of Finsbury Square

This time it isn't possible to blame rogue traders in far away places. This time there is no fraud, in the generally accepted sense of the word, for senior managers to excuse themselves with. And this time, unlike the recent Jardine Fleming case where the financial damage was limited to just £12m, we are talking about a very substantial hole in the accounts of what are supposed to be bullet proof unit and investment trusts. It would be hard to imagine a more damaging blow to the reputation of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, and the City's investment management community more generally, than the events unfolding round at Finsbury Circus.

Peter Young was an apparently able and highly ambitious young fund manager, trained in the London tradition for the highest standards of integrity and diligence. We don't know the full story yet, but it seems almost unbelievable that in his search for performance he could have breached his trading limits in the manner now suspected. More unbelievable still is that he could have done so without his superiors noticing.

The damage here is much more than one of embarrassment. Morgan Grenfell, and more particularly its parent, Deutsche Bank, are going to have to compensate investors in the three trusts for anything up to £150m. It scarcely needs saying that staff can kiss goodbye to their bonuses next as well. The questions come thick and fast. How could Mr Young's search for performance have allowed him so to stray into such an array of companies of such obviously questionable quality? Even accepting that he thought many of his unquoted investments were in companies about to come to market, how could he have so clearly breached established rules and practices on investing in untraded securities? More seriously, what were the failures in control and supervision that allowed him to do so? It is already clear that the buck cannot stop with Mr Young. Other heads must roll. If there is a lesson in this miserable affair, it is the old one - that organisations which encourage the development of powerful egos and star employees only have themselves to blame when things go wrong. The irony is that Morgan Grenfell, which has fallen victim to this trait once before, on that occasion on its corporate finance side, should not have learnt it. The Guinness affair is still, after all, less than 10 years old. The set and the cast are different, but the play seems to be essentially the same - an out of control star employee.

## Stagecoach ride will surely end in tears

With his casual dress code, Celtic origins and pillaging instincts, Brian Souter, the chairman of Stagecoach, probably went down a storm over an acquavit or two with the men from Swedbus, the biggest bus operator in the Nordic region.

Yesterday, as he added the business to Stagecoach's ever-expanding empire, Mr Souter was all praise for the Swedes. Why, he might even arrange a Viking landing party to run operations here since Swedbus employs fewer staff per bus than even Stagecoach.

Those efficiency levels presumably explain why Mr Souter is paying top dollar for the company since the price tag, including debt, of £22m looks pretty fancy for a business with taxable profits of less than £10m. Swedbus is but one more staging post along the way to Mr Souter's goal of quadrupling turnover to £2bn. This, and last month's still more ambitious £82m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook, are being financed with an avalanche of Stagecoach paper and extended borrowing facilities.

And yet, the markets haven't even blinked, marking the share price up relentlessly. Stagecoach trades on a multiple of 27.5 times earnings which is absurd for a bus operator. Shareholders may be enjoying the ride for now. But experience tells us that such helter-skelter expansion will surely end in tears.

Profit warnings: Food retailer's troubles knock high street shares and telecoms manufacturer predicts further slump

## Stores suffer as Iceland earnings dive

**MICHAEL HARRISON**

Shares in food retailers were hit badly yesterday as the frozen foods chain Iceland repeated its profits warning for the year and reported a bigger-than-expected fall in earnings in the first half.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of June were down by 11.3 per cent to £29.8m - the first profits fall in Iceland's 25-year history - compared with market expectations of just over £30m. In July Iceland forecast that first-half profits would be about 10 per cent lower.

The worse-than-expected profit figures were accompanied by a warning that like-for-like sales to date in the second half were down by 0.5 per cent, while profits would be further affected by Iceland's investment programme and its Price-watch campaign.

Analysts immediately downgraded their profit forecasts for the full year as shares in Iceland and other High Street supermarket groups tumbled. Henderson Crosthwaite has lowered its profit forecast for the

year from £63m to under £60m while BZW has gone from £59m this year to £57m and from £55m to £51.5m for 1997.

Shares in Iceland fell by nearly 10 per cent from 101.5p to 92p, dragging the food retailing sector with them. Worst hit were rival low-cost supermarket chains Kwik Save, down 19.5p at 372p, and the newly-floated Somerfield, off 2.5p at 153p.

Since Iceland's initial profit warning on 18 July, its shares have fallen by 35 per cent. The group blamed the first profit warning on poor sales, price wars and the cost of its store refurbishment programme.

Yesterday there was more bad news in the shape of a warning that the Price-watch campaign would bite into margins in the second half while profits would be further affected by loss of sales caused by temporary closure of stores for refurbishment.

Malcolm Walker, chairman, said: "Naturally, it is disappointing to report the first profit setback in Iceland's history. The UK food retail market is the most advanced and fiercely competitive



Cold war: Iceland says price competition is party to blame Photograph: Emma Boam

in the world and our business has encountered unprecedented pressures during 1996."

He pledged that Iceland's recovery plan, including 130 new product lines, 30 store openings this year and the refurbishment of a further 150 stores next year, would restore real sales growth and returns to shareholders. The interim dividend was raised by 9 per cent to 1.8p.

But analysts chose to focus on the shorter term outlook and the trading outlook. David Stoddart of Henderson Crosthwaite said: "We had all been pointed in the direction of lower first-half profits but it is a disappointment that the second half performance will also be affected. There could potentially be quite a hit on operating margins in the second half."

## Telspec forecast to slide £6m into red

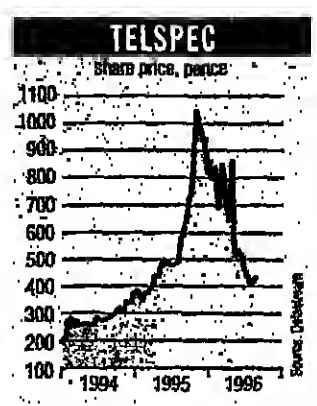
**PETER RODGERS**  
Financial Editor

Frank Hackett-Jones, founder and non-executive chairman of Telspec, saw the value of his stake nearly halve to £35m yesterday after the Kent-based telecommunications equipment maker issued its second profit warning in four months.

The forecast of a slide £6m into the red is expected to lead to shareholder pressure for a strengthening of the board, and in the City questions were being asked about the future of Dr Garth Riley, the chief executive.

The shares slumped 45 per cent to 222.5p compared with more than £10 at the end of last year when Mr Hackett-Jones' controlling stake was worth £160m. In 1994, Telspec was floated as one of the hottest new issues of the year.

Dr Riley warned in May that



The main reason for the unexpected deterioration into a pre-tax loss is that the management has been caught out in component purchasing, as a sharp increase in sales left the production side of the business short of supplies at a time of booming prices. This left Telspec buying electronic components at high prices on the spot market.

Dr Riley said the results for the six months to June would be "adversely affected by a number of temporary factors". Turnover was 25 per cent higher than a year earlier at £35m, but the difficulties had been "significantly worse than originally expected".

Other factors blamed in the May profits warning were lower than expected sales in the Middle East and Asia Pacific, an order downturn in Australia and delays at a new factory in Turkey.

### IN BRIEF

- The Inland Revenue unveiled new tax returns to be sent to 8.5 million taxpayers from April, which it claimed were "probably the best in the world". The forms, designed after extensive tests, were said to be easier to understand and fill in. However, Ernst & Young, the tax advisers, said the new forms would be a "culture shock" to many. The company attacked Revenue plans to fine taxpayers £100 a time if they fail to complete the forms on time.
- Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said after the regular monthly meeting at the European Monetary Institute that he had noted no recent improvements in prospects for nations meeting the convergence criteria to join Europe's planned currency union. Asked whether he thought that prospects for EMU were improving, he replied: "That would be too strong to say."
- German industrial output rose for the fifth month running in July, suggesting that the economic recovery is continuing. Although still 1.6 per cent below its level a year earlier, pan-German output rose 0.5 per cent during the month. For the first time since March the increase was bigger in the west than the east, 0.5 per cent compared to a 0.5 per cent drop in the eastern Länder, or states. The main area of strength was output of consumer durables.
- Yorkshire Water has reacted to shareholder criticism of its board structure by appointing two non-executive directors, Derek Roberts, the next chairman of Yorkshire Building Society, and David Perry, chairman of Waddington plc. Yorkshire Water was criticised when it emerged that chairman Brandon Gough would only be working two days a week, and also that he would be based in Kent.
- Trading volumes on Life set a record for the month of August, traditionally quiet. There was a 23 per cent increase on August 1995, with 12.43 million futures and options contracts traded.
- Midlands Electricity said its Midlands Gas subsidiary will enter the second phase of domestic gas market competition in the south of England in early 1997.
- Auditors are being urged to adopt "an attitude of professional scepticism" towards clients as part of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' attempt to crack down on fraud. The advice is contained in *Towards Better Auditing*, a booklet published by the institute's audit faculty with the aim of raising the standards of small and medium-sized firms.

## US likely to lift interest rates

**DIANE COYLE**  
Economics Editor

Fresh signs of growth in America's manufacturing industry cemented expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise US interest rates later this month.

Yesterday's figures gave financial markets, already nervous about military action in Iraq, an attack of the collywobles. The Dow Jones index fell more than 50 points during the morning, triggering the New York Stock Exchange's curbs on automatic trades, although it recovered to just 13 points down at 5,603.63 by late morning. In London, the FTSE 100 index ended nearly 29 points lower at 3,855.9. Shares also fell elsewhere in Europe.

Oil prices rose to their highest since April as a result of America's intervention in the Middle East, with the benchmark Brent crude future price up 79 cents to \$22.78 a barrel. The National Association of Purchasing Managers reported an increase in US manufacturing activity in August. Its index climbed from just above the 50 "boom-bust" threshold in July to 52.6 last month, a little higher than expected. Output, orders, employment and price components of the index all rose.

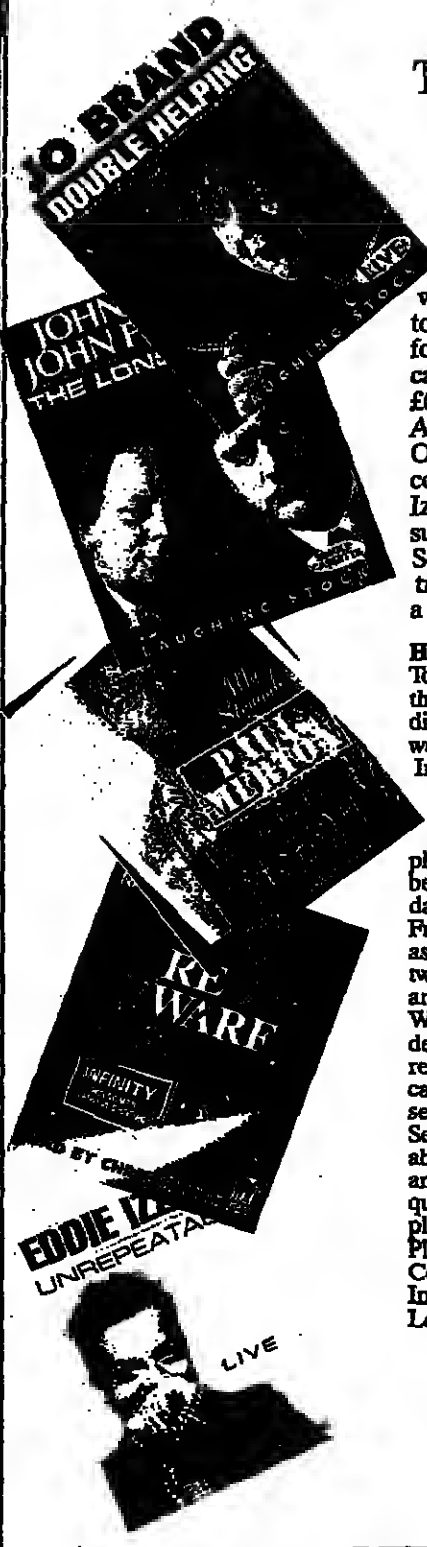
Separate figures showed a further increase, of 0.2 per cent, in the index of leading indicators for the economy.

Many Wall Street analysts now expect a big increase in employment last month to be reported in Friday's jobs report, the most influential of the monthly economic statistics.

Federal Reserve officials recommended an increase of a quarter to a half point in interest rates last month in reaction to signs that the economy was gathering pace rather than slowing down as expected. Their advice was ignored by the Fed governors on its policy-making Open Markets Committee but analysts do not think this will happen again at the 24 September meeting.

The Fed meeting at the end of the month will take place a day after Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are due to hold their next meeting. City experts think there is a chance Mr Clarke could decide on a base rate cut at today's meeting, before the window of opportunity closes.

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THE INDEPENDENT

## SFA faces flak over chief executive rules

**PETER RODGERS**  
and **JILL TREANOR**

The Securities and Futures Authority is expected to come under fire from senior members following proposals yesterday that will make it easier to prosecute chief executives of troubled firms such as Barings.

The SFA yesterday proposed reversing the burden of proof in its disciplinary procedures, by forcing chief executives to show they have done everything they can to avoid the problems endangering their businesses.

But many chief executives are concerned that this could give an open-ended responsibility for everything that happens in their firms, whether or not it was within their control.

The controversial draft rules have been drawn up in response to the Barings collapse last year. They state that it will be presumed that the senior executive officer has failed to carry out his duties "unless it can be shown that he has taken all reasonable steps to avoid such damage".

The ground-breaking proposals are more radical than expected in the summer and are a direct result of public anger that the SFA was unable to take disciplinary action against Peter Baring, chairman of Barings, or Andrew Tuckey, his deputy. Several more junior executives have been disciplined.

Nick Durlacher, chairman of the SFA, said he did not want to stop senior managers delegating or to make them take responsibility for the actions of all their employees. "But we will require that the responsibility be pinned on somebody."



## business

## Blue Circle rides out stormy markets

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Blue Circle, the cement, heating and bathrooms group, at last seems to be perfecting the ability to ride out the wildly different markets in which it operates. In the mature UK cement market, which it dominates, the group suffered a further 6.7 per cent fall in volumes in the first half of 1996, only beating the market average by a percentage point or so because of exports. By contrast, cement volumes jumped 26 per cent in Malaysia in July and in Chile Blue Circle managed to sell 48 per cent more ready-mixed concrete in the first six months of the year.

So a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £116m in the half year to June, on turnover up just 4 per cent, was a respectable result. The group is also making a decent fist of tackling stagnant building markets in Europe. The biggest boost to the figures came from the boilers and radiators business, which was hammered by weak European housing markets last year. Cost savings from the £55m restructuring announced at the end of 1995 delivered all of the bounce in operating profits from £100,000 to £9m in the half year, although the comparison was flattered by one-off charges last time. With the German boiler and radiator market down 10-13 per cent, the trading environment is not propitious, so the full £25m benefit of the expected efficiencies will be important in the 1997 figures.

In the UK cement business, Blue Circle is dealing with maturity head on through a £330m investment programme. While adding no new capacity, the new plants should improve efficiency. If they come near the target return of 10 per cent they should double last year's £24m operating profit, which fell from £30.4m in 1995. But the real growth story lies overseas. The US continues to power ahead, with the 5 per cent upturn in the market in the first half showing no sign of slowing in the aftermath of the construction boom surrounding the Atlanta Olympics. Profits up from

£21.2m to £25.1m have overtaken the UK and, with further price rises in the offing, the background seems set for Blue Circle's planned 600,000 tonne capacity increase.

The US is just one area where the group is seeking to use its firepower for acquisitions. Even with £500m or so of capital investment planned over the next four years, minimal gearing means it could have £400m to spend on purchases in areas like the US, Argentina, India or South-east Asia.

However, a repeat of Chile or Malaysia and Singapore, where profits soared 58 per cent, might be difficult, given the number of rivals with deep pockets planning a similar course.

Meanwhile, profits of £300m or so this year would put the shares, down 3.5p at 373p, on a forward rating of 16, which looks high enough for now.

## Speculation at Yorkshire-TT

A sparkling set of interim results from Yorkshire-TT Tees was overshadowed yesterday by speculation about

the future of the ITV licence holder. The question which continues to tease observers concerns the intentions of fellow-broadcaster Granada, which has a 24 per cent stake in YTT.

Analysts and investors are in little doubt that a takeover is coming, hence the whopping premium at which the shares are trading. Yesterday's announcement of an 80 per cent jump in first-half profits to £13.3m came despite disappointing returns from advertising. The group's share of national advertising revenues languishes at around 10 per cent, well down on its historic high of 14 per cent.

But programme sales more than made up for lacklustre advertising and cost cutting has continued. Emmetdale, the well-known soap, has gone to three episodes a week, while YTT has been contracted to supply three made-for-TV films for the US. But the real story remains with Granada and what it does next. There have been several informal discussions between Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, and Ward Thomas, chairman of YTT, about how an agreed deal might work, and at what price.

Yesterday's 22.5p fall in the share price to £12.15 was based on the highly unlikely assumption that the company will announce a rights issue to pay for acquisitions. That looks far fetched. Even after yesterday's drop, the shares remain on a stratospheric rating, reflecting not just takeover prospects, but the likelihood that the huge licence fees paid by the two YTT ITV companies will come down during the renegotiation scheduled for 1997/8, and the probability that YTT's share of advertising revenues will come into closer balance with the region's demographic and consumer profile.

So how much will Granada have to pay? Full-year profits are likely to exceed £28m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 36 times 1996 earnings. The expectation is that Granada could afford up to £14 a share, and still avoid earnings dilution.

The nervous should look in profits and sell now, but those with a more robust constitution will hold on.

## A question over timing at IMI

On the face of it, IMI's recent reshuffling of its business portfolio looks abysmally timed. At the beginning of the year it paid £134m for Heimeier, Germany's biggest maker of the thermodynamic radiator valves, just as the German construction market hit shut down. It followed that up in February by offloading its titanium metal business on to Titanium Metals Corporation, the biggest US producer, just as orders soared at the jet engine builders which represent one of the biggest customers for the metal.

But IMI chief executive Gary Allen remains sanguine, pointing out that the asset swap replaced a business which lost £6.5m in the first half of last year with one which made £8.1m in very difficult markets this time. The shake-up distorted half-time results to June, which saw pre-tax profits soaring from £49m to £138m. Stripping out £70.8m of disposal profits, underlying profits were 37 per cent ahead.

Much of that was due to Heimeier's maiden contribution to the copper pipes to valves building products division, which scored from £16.9m to £23.7m. The business was hit by the harsh winter and difficult markets on the Continent. Even adding back a £500,000 loss on copper stocks, profits in the original operations were down £800,000.

Full-year profits of £139m would put the shares, down 16p at 380p, on prospective price ratio of 15. Fairly rated.

## A lecture on how to lose millions

## CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

An entrepreneur who headed two businesses that went bust, and who went into personal insolvency two years ago, has been made visiting professor at Sunderland University's Business School.

John Broome is to head up the team of principal and senior lecturers who will teach the country's first degree course in themed leisure management design.

Mr Broome first sprang to fame with Alton Towers, which he developed as a leisure park in the 1970s and then sold to Pearson in 1990 for £60m. Then in 1987 he bought Battersea Power Station in London and things turned sour. His ambitious project to turn the site into a leisure attraction, a scheme personally launched by Margaret Thatcher, went into liquidation in April 1994 with a deficiency of £75.8m.

Still enthused by big projects, he launched a £22m re-

development of Carden Park in Cheshire. Bank of Scotland sent in the receivers in October 1994. Developer Steve Morgan then bought Carden from the receivers. According to receivers, creditors suffered losses of "many millions of pounds".

There were more losses when Mr Broome entered an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors to pay off his personal debts later in 1994.

Mr Broome said yesterday that he was "delighted" by the professorship. "It is a considerable accolade to be awarded such a post and to be able to pass one's knowledge on to the younger generation in this field."

Malcolm Shearson, an insolvency practitioner with Grant Thornton who was involved in the Carden receivership, said: "It does prove that there are opportunities after insolvency."



Thinking big: John Broome in the bowels of Battersea

## CLASSIFIED

## Public Notices

## OPRAF

RAILWAYS ACT 1993

OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICES  
The Franchising Director gives notice under sections 37, 39 and 41 of the Railways Act 1993 that, after due consideration, on or after 30 September 1996 Railtrack PLC and North West Regional Railways Limited propose to withdraw passenger services to and from, and terminate the use of, the following station:

WREXHAM CENTRAL (NORTH WALES)

and to terminate the use of 280 metres of track and associated operational installations at the station.

The reason for this proposal is to allow the construction of a new Wrexham Central station approximately 280 metres to the north-west of the existing station. The new station will provide better facilities for passengers, including an enclosed covered area at the head of the platform, equipped with seating, lighting and passenger information. Ten new dedicated car parking spaces will be available, including disabled and cycle parking facilities. High quality lighting and public address systems will be installed, together with closed circuit television. The new station will be linked to a commercial retail development.

No changes are proposed from the existing service as a result of the station relocation. During the construction of the new station (approximately 4 months), services between Wrexham General and Wrexham Central will be replaced by buses.

Objections to the proposed withdrawal of services and/or closure of the station and track, preferably in writing, may be lodged within six weeks of 4 September, i.e. by 16 October, with:

Teresa Perchard  
Passenger Services Group  
Office of the Rail Regulator  
1 Waterhouse Square  
138-142 Holborn  
London EC1N 2ST  
Telephone: 0645 645625 (all calls charged at local rate)  
Facsimile: 0171 282 2043

The Rail Regulator may make objections public or copy them to the operator proposing the closure.

A statement of the reasons for the proposed closure can be inspected on any working day between 10am and 4pm at the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (OPRAF), Golding's House, 2 Hay's Lane, London, SE1 2HB, telephone 0171 940 4299, or at Wrexham Library Arts Centre, Rhosddu Road, Wrexham. Copies of the statement can be obtained by request from OPRAF. There will be no charge for copies.

The Rail Regulator will send a copy of every objection to the proposed closure which is lodged with him to the Rail Users' Consultative Committee (RUCC) for Wales. The RUCC will then consider whether the proposed closure will cause any hardship and if so, what reasonable means of alleviating this hardship would be. The RUCC will prepare a report on their conclusions and send it to the Rail Regulator. The Rail Regulator will decide whether the proposed closure should be allowed and, if so, whether any conditions should be attached to the closure.

Wrexham Central station will remain open and services will not be withdrawn until the Rail Regulator has made his decision.

Signed: CHRIS STOKES

Duly authorised by the Franchising Director

## Public Notices

## OPRAF

DEDDF RHEILFFYRDD 1993

SWYDDFA BREINIO RHEILFFYRDD

TEITHWYR [OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL

FRANCHISING]

CYNNIG I DERFYNU GWASANAETHAU TEITHWYR

RHEILFFYRDD

Mae'r Cyfarwyddwr Breinio'n hysbysu o dan Adranau 37, 39 a 41 yn Neddf Rheilffyrdd 1993 fod Railtrack PLC a North West Regional Railways Limited yn bwriadu derfynu gwasanaethau i deithwyr ar 30 Medi 1996 neu wedi hynny i'r orsaf ddilynol ac oheri, gan derfynu'r derfnydd a wneir oheri -

GORSAF GANOLOG WRECSAM (GOGLEDD CYMRU)

a therfynu'r derfnydd a wneir o 280 metr o gleddu a pheiriau weithiau gweithredol cysylltiol yn yr orsaf.

Y rheswm am y cynnig hwn yw er mwyn caniatáu adelladu gorsaf ganolog newydd yn Wrecsam tua 280 metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r orsaf bresennol. Fe fydd yr orsaf newydd yn cynnig gwell cyfleusterau i deithwyr, yn cynnwys llecyn caeedig ac o dan do ar ben y platform, wedi'i gyfarparu â seddau, goleuadau a gwybodaeth i deithwyr. Fe fydd deg o fannau parcio unswydd ar gael, gan gynnwys adnoddau ar gyfer yr anabl a pharcio beidiau. Fe osodir systemau goleuo a chyffwrddau a'r cyhoedd o answydd da, ynghyd â theleddu cyhoedd caeedig. Fe gysylltir yr orsaf â datblygiad manwrthu masnachol.

Nid oes bwriad i wneud unrhyw newidiadau i'r gwasanaeth presennol o ganlyniad i all-leoli'r orsaf. Yn ystod y gwaith o adelladu'r orsaf newydd (tua 4 mis), fe ddosodlir y gwasanaethau rhwng gorsaf Gyffredinol Wrecsam a gorsaf Canol Wrecsam gan fysiau.

Gellir rhoi gwybodaeth am wrthwynebiad i dnynu gwasanaethau 'nol a/neu gau'r orsaf a'r cleddu, gorau o'r drwy ysgrifennu, o fewn chwe wythnos ar ôl 4 Medi, h.y. erbyn 16 Hydref, i:

Teresa Perchard  
Passenger Services Group  
Office of the Rail Regulator  
1 Waterhouse Square  
138-142 Holborn  
LONDON EC1N 2ST  
Telephone: 0645 645625 (codir am bob galwad ar y gyfradd leol)  
Facsimile: 0171 282 2043

Etallai y bydd Rheilffyrdd y Rheilffyrdd yn cyhoeddi'r gwrthwynebiadau neu'n eu copio a'u harran at y gweithredwr sy'n cynnig cau'r orsaf.

Gellir gweld datganiad o'r rhesymau dros y caed arfaethedig yn ystod unrhyw ddiwrnod gwaith rhwng 10am a 4pm yn Swyddfa Breinio Rheilffyrdd Teithwyr (OPRAF), 79 Golding, 2 Hay's Lane, Llundain, SE1 2HB, ffon 0171 940 4299, neu yn Llyfrgell Wrecsam, Canolfan y Celfyddydau, Heol Rhosddu, Wrecsam. Gellir cael copïau o'r datganiad drwy wneud cais i OPRAF. Ni chodir cofnod am gopïau.

Bydd Rheilffyrdd y Rheilffyrdd yn anfon copi o bob gwrthwynebiad i'r caed arfaethedig a anfonir ato at Bwyllgor Ymgynghorol Derfnyddwyr Rheilffyrdd (RUCC) dros Gymru. Yna fe fydd y Pwyllgor yn ystyried a fydd y caed arfaethedig yn achosi unrhyw galedi ac os bydd, pa foddion rhesymol i liniaru'r caledi hwn fyddai ar gael. Fe fydd y Pwyllgor hefyd yn paratoli adroddiad ar eu casgliadau ac yn ei anfon at Reolwdd y Rheilffyrdd. Fe fydd Rheilffyrdd y Rheilffyrdd yn penderfynu a ddyfild caniatáu'r caed arfaethedig ac os felly, a ddyfild gosod unrhyw amodau ynglŷn â'r caed.

Fe fydd gorsaf Canol Wrecsam yn dal ar agor ac ni ddilid gwasanaethau hyd nes y bydd Rheilffyrdd y Rheilffyrdd wedi gwneud ei benderfyniad.

Llofnodwyd: CHRIS STOKES

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## Swebus the start expansion in Europe

MICHAEL HARRISON

Stagecoach, the acquisitive and aggressive bus and rail operator, yesterday served notice that it planned to expand further into Europe as it sealed the £230m takeover of the state-owned Swedish bus group Swebus.

Chairman Brian Souter said that the acquisition of Swebus, the biggest bus operator in the Nordic region with a fleet of 3,450 buses and 6,200 staff, would provide a strong platform for further expansion in the area and other parts of Europe.

The group, which controls 18 per cent of the British bus market and operates the South West Trains franchise into London's Waterloo station, aims to increase turnover four-fold to £250 by the end of the decade.

Stagecoach is paying £115.6m in cash for Swebus and taking on debt and accrued interest of £171m. The deal follows its controversial £825m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook last month from a management buyout team.

Swebus, owned by the Swedish national railway, made pre-tax profits of Swedish kroner 111m (£9.8m) last year on turnover of Skr3.2m and controls 30 per cent of Sweden's bus market, but only 3 to 4 per cent of the Nordic markets outside Sweden.

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# market report/shares

## Footsie suffers jitters in the wake of Iraqi flare-up

TAKING STOCK

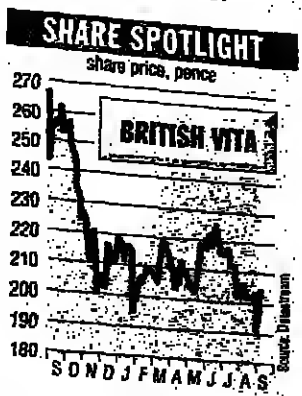
### MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

**DATA BANK**

FT-SE 100	3855.9 -28.5
FT-SE 250	4385.4 -28.6
FT-SE 350	1930.9 -13.9
SEAQ VOLUME	703m shares
31,669 bargains	
Gilts Index	92.63 -0.27



It was a difficult session for shares with the Iraqi flare-up and worries about US interest rates producing, with a little help from the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell funds fiasco, an acute bout of collywobblers.

At one time the FT-SE 100 index was nursing a 48.6 point fall and seemed destined to go even lower. But once New York got over initial hesitancy the stock market became more positive with the slide reduced to 28.5 (to 3,855.9) by the close.

The Iraqi confrontation put the spotlight on industries - largely airlines and hotels - which were savaged during the Gulf war when many travellers decided to stay at home.

British Airways, with the added worry of mounting pressure on its proposed American Airlines link, crash landed 12.5p to 512p. On the hotel front, Granada fell 16.5p to 849.5p, Base 7.5p to 813.5p and Ladbroke 1p to 207.5p.

Oils lost some of their exuberance although crude prices continued to move ahead. Besides the increase in Middle Eastern tension, the United Nations decision to postpone the food-for-oil deal, which would have allowed Iraq limited exporting opportunities, was again an influence in forcing the oil market higher.

Interest rate concerns were heightened by today's scheduled meeting of the Bank of England. Despite the Chancellor's desire for lower rates it is thought he will for the time being bow to the more hawkish stance of the Bank of England.

The near-term direction of US rates could prove the decisive factor. The market is divided whether President Clinton will chance an increase ahead of the presidential election. If he does sit tight the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre is increased.

The latest fund manage-



ment outcry prompted thoughts about a much tougher supervisory regime. If stories floating around about the composition of the suspended funds are true then portfolios had little relation to the apparent management guidelines.

British Biotech, rumoured to be one of the main investments, fell 3p to 218p (after 192.5p) and Standard Bank, another alleged Morgan stock, gave up 12.5p to 473.5p.

On the surface it looked as though the market enjoyed a busy session. However, Government sales of National Power, PowerGen and Southern Electric helped swell volume. Through Goldman Sachs

28.5 million NP shares and 860,000 Southern went through and UBS handled the disposal of 17.1 million PG. The action dimmed the two generators, NP by 8p to 393p and PG by 8.5p to 495.5p but Southern managed a 2.5p gain to 665p.

Williams Holdings, one of the few conglomerates riding high, was little changed at 357.5p as Albert E Sharp made bullish noises ahead of next week's interim results. Suggesting profits of £112m, the stockbroker observed the shares "now look poised to break out from the sector straight jacket and achieve genuine growth status".

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, gained 3p to 198p on suspected buying by Morgan Stanley and Tate & Lyle edged ahead 2.5p to 457.5p although more profit downgradings were signalled.

Iceland's poor display unsettled other food retailers and Farnborough produced modest gains for the aerospace contingent.

Avon Rubber, the tyres group, enjoyed a speculative run, up 22.5p at 710p, a 12 month high. Croda International added 25.5p to 338p after better-than-expected profits.

The Croda display directed attention to British Vita, up 9.5p to 204.5p.

With signs of a chemical upturn hopes are growing Monday's half-year figures will be accompanied by an encouraging trading statement. SBC Warburg has moved the shares from hold to add. Interim profits are likely to be around

£22m against £26.2m. A year's out-turn approaching £50m (£35.7m) is the expectation being expressed in some quarters.

Telapac's latest profit warning sent the shares reeling 180p to 222.5p. They were 1,045p in November. Memory Corporation lost a further 13.5p to 24p.

Quality Software, the computer group, edged forward 2.5p to 257.5p. Its recent strength appears to be due to buying by the Bulldog Fund, an investment vehicle related to stockbroker Seligman Harris. It has acquired nearly 4 per cent.

Millwall, the second-division football club, had to contend with more selling by director Jose Berardo. He has unloaded a further 5.5 million shares. His holding is 4.53 per cent against 12.5 per cent earlier this year. The shares firmed to 3.5p.

JBCE, the computer games group, fell 1p to 13.75p, low for more than a year. The fall has occurred despite favourable presentations about AutoNomy, developing an Internet search system, where JBCE has 8.3 per cent. At the half-way mark the computer group had lost £1.2m and there are worries publishers may have delayed commitments to new games. There is also talk a sell note is being prepared by a stockbroker. The shares were 25p in November.

Ladbroke has emerged as a surprise 4.45 per cent shareholder in Wakebourne, the struggling computer group. It seems the betting and hotel group could have acquired its interest in December, 1994, when a company with a debt to Ladbroke went into receivership. Wakebourne held at 27.5p.

**Alcoholic Beverages**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Banks, Merchant**

Share	Price	Change	%
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Banks, Retail**

Share	Price	Change	%
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0
Barclays Bank	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Breweries, Pubs & Rest**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Building/Construction**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Chemicals**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Diversified Industries**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Engineering Vehicles**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Extractive Industries**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Food Manufacturers**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Government Securities**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Household Goods**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Investment Companies**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Investment Trusts**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Life Assurance**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Media**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Pharmaceuticals**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Printing & Paper**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Other Financial**

Share	Price	Change	%
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0
Heavenly Bodies	1.00	0.00	0.0

**Oil Exploration**



# A taste of England 1: In the fields of Kent the grapes mature to produce one of our finest vintages for years

JAMES CUSICK

A September sun, faint breeze, good food eaten outdoors overlooking a hillside of vineyards. Not Bordeaux but Kent – no Gallic *je ne sais quoi* here. Without question this has been a superb year for English wine and only the French are complaining.

At the beginning of next month the chaos, excitement and buzz of the English wine harvest will descend on the country's eight or so commercial vineyards. A hot summer last year and a frost-free spring followed by a summer of good sun this year have left the vines with a bumper crop of quality grapes.

Despite the old prejudice that wine from England is as appropriate as an outdoor swimming pool in Stornoway, the arguable climatic shift in recent years towards milder springs and hotter summers has led to a wine industry no longer considered a joke among international producers. Consistent quality is now achievable.

With the country now contributing more than 2 million bottles of wine to the European Union's production total, the EU has been trying to impose its quality control on English producers. France takes its own classification control very seriously but the English system has generally been ignored by producers who have hoped the bureaucracy would fade away and let them get on with improving the product. However, the harvest this year is likely to

increase England's small share of the EU market and French producers are known by the British growers to be furious.

At Lamberhurst Vineyards set in 60 acres of Kent countryside in the Weald near Tunbridge Wells, wine-maker Simon Day is anticipating the coming harvest with relish. Trained at the Three Choirs Vineyards in Gloucestershire and Brown Brothers in Australia he is one of the few professionals who believe English wine has already rid itself of its "plonk" image.

Six varieties of grapes are grown at Lamberhurst: Seyval blanc, Schonburger, Reichenstein, Bacchus, Muller Thurgau and Kerner. And this partly explains why the French are so upset. "Seyval blanc, for example, is a hybrid grape," Mr Day said. "It is high yielding and disease resistant. The French have tried to grow it and they say it produces only poor quality wine, but in the English climate it thrives and produces good wine."

Although EU regulations allow Lamberhurst to use the Seyval blanc grape, the French say the crop will simply add to Europe's wine lake by producing more inferior wine. The fact that Lamberhurst has two international wine awards indicates protectionist tendencies from the French rather than genuine concern about over-production.

Nevertheless, when the French wine industry is worried, the European Commission takes notice. A delegation of inspectors is expected to conduct a new

survey of the English wine growers before this year's harvest is in. If the EU imposed a growing ban on certain varieties of weather-resistant grapes, Britain's industry could be killed off. However, it is more likely that the French – as they did with the United States, Australia, New Zealand and now South Africa – will have to learn to live with new competition.

Lamberhurst has been in production since 1972. In the first year it crushed just over 100 tons of grapes. This year's total is up to 600 tons and the harvest is expected to raise production even higher. Last year, Paul Cooper and Derek McMillan – with backgrounds in industry and public relations – became the new owners of Lamberhurst. They have aggressively marketed the Kentish vineyards and now hold large contracts with Sainsbury and Tesco, and are negotiating with Oddbins.

Mr Day said: "At the moment we have just enough to last us but we are running out of wine because the demand is so good." Like a proud father speaking of a gifted child he recalled the recent visit of a French wine-maker to Kent. "We entertained them at Lamberhurst. I don't think they expected what they drank – it surprised them."

But wine making is "as much science as art", he added, and "there is always room for improvement". The French are probably hoping for not too much improvement.



Wine-maker's delight: Simon Day inspecting the grapes at Lamberhurst, where a bumper harvest is expected

Photograph: Peter...

## A taste of England 2: In a froth of PR, alcoholic gel is launched

GLENDA COOPER



Thickhead: Offending label on the latest alcopop

Carlsberg-Tetley, gave in to pressure yesterday from the drinks industry watchdog to change the packaging of its latest "alcopop", Thickhead, amid fears that it could encourage underage drinking.

The drink – described as the first "alcoholic carbonated gel drink" – made by Carlsberg-Tetley in Burton-on-Trent, is the latest alcoholic soft drink to come under fire amid fears they are appealing to under-18s.

The Portman Group, set up by the drinks industry, told Carlsberg-Tetley that the word

alcohol should be displayed more prominently and that the picture on the label of a youth pulling a face directly contravenes its code of practice by portraying someone who could be under 18.

Yesterday, Carlsberg-Tetley agreed to the group's demand in future production of the drink.

The Labour Party demanded an independent inquiry into the drink, while Alcohol Concern described it as "ludicrous" to expect that a drink resembling liquidised jelly would not appeal to children.

Carlsberg-Tetley denied that Thickhead, a fluorescent orange

drink, would encourage under-18s to drink and claimed it would appeal to the "repertoire drinkers" aged 18-30 who no longer show dedication to particular brands or drinks.

Jean Coussins, director of the Portman Group said: "The good news is the company is still fully supportive of the Portman Group and will be changing the labelling accordingly. The bad news is we don't know how long it is going to take before the label is changed... We wish they had delayed the launch and changed the labels."

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths,

said: "We must have an independent inquiry into the marketing of alcopops and make recommendations to ensure they are not targeted at teenagers."

Mark Bennett, spokesman for Alcohol Concern said: "We find it difficult to believe that a product which is basically liquidised jelly with an extremely sweet taste and luminous colour will not appeal to children... Is this self-regulation at work? We are astonished that the Portman Group and Carlsberg-Tetley do not seem to be talking to one another about this. It is ludicrous."

However, Carlsberg-Tetley, who also make Lemonhead and Orangehead (alcoholic lemonade and orangeade), said the gooey brew which is "tangy in flavour, fluorescent orange in colour... [and] the consistency of liquid hair gel" was the latest attempt to woo the "pick and mix" generation who no longer stick to one type of drink.

Around £250m is expected to be spent on alcopops this year. Since the launch of the first alcoholic lemonade, the British public has been treated to alcoholic cola and orangeade and there are rumours of alco-

holic "slush puppies" (frozen ice drinks) on the way. Stephen Cox, campaigns manager for the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) said: "As the old volume-related products have gone down, the drinks industry has turned to premium products which people will buy for three or four years. It launches lots and lots of brands in the hope that one of them does well."

"Sol is a great example. It was desperately popular for two years, but then that crowd moved on and no-one would be seen drinking Mexican lager."

Suzanne Moore, page 13

### Youth market

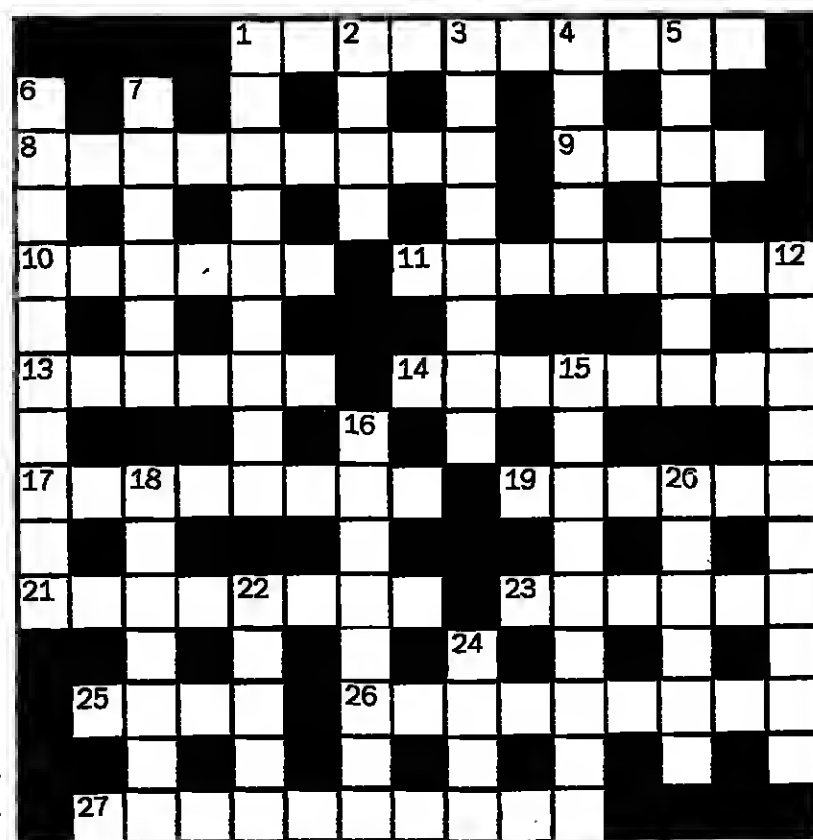
How the labels young...  
Cyber Gen: The web...  
Mind Blow: Timothy L...  
Eco-Pagan: G...  
A Gender: Tank g...  
Street Sport: Sports with style

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3083, Wednesday 4 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



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- 22 Secret meeting in country station (5)
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apes  
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THE INDEPENDENT

# Summer of sport

Wednesday 4 September 1996

## England players to boycott training

Rugby Union  
DAVID LLEWELLYN

England players yesterday supported a call to put club before country and will boycott today's training session at Bisham Abbey, leaving Jack Rowell, the England coach, with unused scrum machines and rugby balls lying idle on the pitch.

The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs finally flexed their not inconsiderable muscle in the struggle for supremacy with the Rugby Football Union and the players

quickly fell into line behind their employers.

"We are being fully supported by the players, we have stuck our necks out for them, now they must stick theirs out for us," Donald Kerr, the chairman of Epruc, said. "We know that the Rugby Football Union are threatening the players with losing their England places if they fail to attend. We will do everything to protect the players' interests. They have been very much on our side throughout the battle."

"I expect the top players to carry on supporting us. We are now entering the final chapter.

By sticking together we will get the whole thing sorted out in six to eight weeks flat. If not it will go festering on. We will put the RFU under maximum pressure. We have spent the last few days explaining to the players exactly why the whole thing is in such a mess.

"It is not an issue about turning up to the training session, but whether the players support the clubs, who are now their employers. The players are the key to this dispute. They are being paid reasonable salaries and we are asking them to support us in this dispute."

"I've been very impressed at

the way they have conducted themselves throughout this whole sorry saga."

The RFU's response to the boycott came from the RFU technical director Don Rutherford. "It would be sad, with international rugby having moved to a higher level as seen in the Southern Hemisphere, if England's preparations were impinged upon at this stage," he said. And in a statement from Twickenham the RFU reminded the clubs that the training sessions had been discussed on 12 June of this year, confirmed in a memo on 15 July and the first of the planned and agreed

sessions had taken place on 24 July.

England were planning a 43-man squad session, but Leicester's contingent of four forwards, including the Five Nations-winning players Graham Rowntree and Martio Johnson, were among the first to declare that they would not be there. The 43 players will instead attend an Epruc meeting.

"We didn't say to them 'you will not go'. We told them the position as we saw it and left it up to them. They decided not to go," the Leicester chief executive Peter Wheeler said.

The British Lions tour manager

Fran Cotton expressed his sympathy for the players caught up in the dispute and appealed for the game's warring factions to get together to resolve their differences.

The former England forward said: "I really do feel sorry for the players. They are becoming pig in the middle and all they want to do is play for their clubs and their country."

Epruc also stated that it has no intention of meeting the RFU for further talks which have dragged on for the last nine months with the clubs getting nowhere as Twickenham has stalled and extended every

deadline to date in the hope of nullifying the threat of a break-away. But the clubs have finally snapped and although Kerr insisted that the clubs would honour their domestic fixture list, even that must be in doubt.

"I have been asked to meet the president of the Rugby Union John Richardson, but there will be no more talks," Kerr said. "The old order is just not working and the new order has to come in."

It would not be unreasonable to assume that RFU might just decide to make the divorce absolute and expel the clubs. But they would hardly endear them-

selves to rugby supporters already bemused by the game's apparent disintegration.

The only thing left for the RFU now would be to grant the clubs what they want, fiscal independence, autonomy to run their own competitions, but next season that is precisely what Epruc see themselves doing anyway.

Ultimately the thing which lies at the root of this sordid affair is money. The clubs say they need £1m, the RFU has offered £300,000. That sort of money does not talk, so the clubs walk.

Geoghegan operation, page 2

## Illingworth cleared of disrepute charge

Cricket

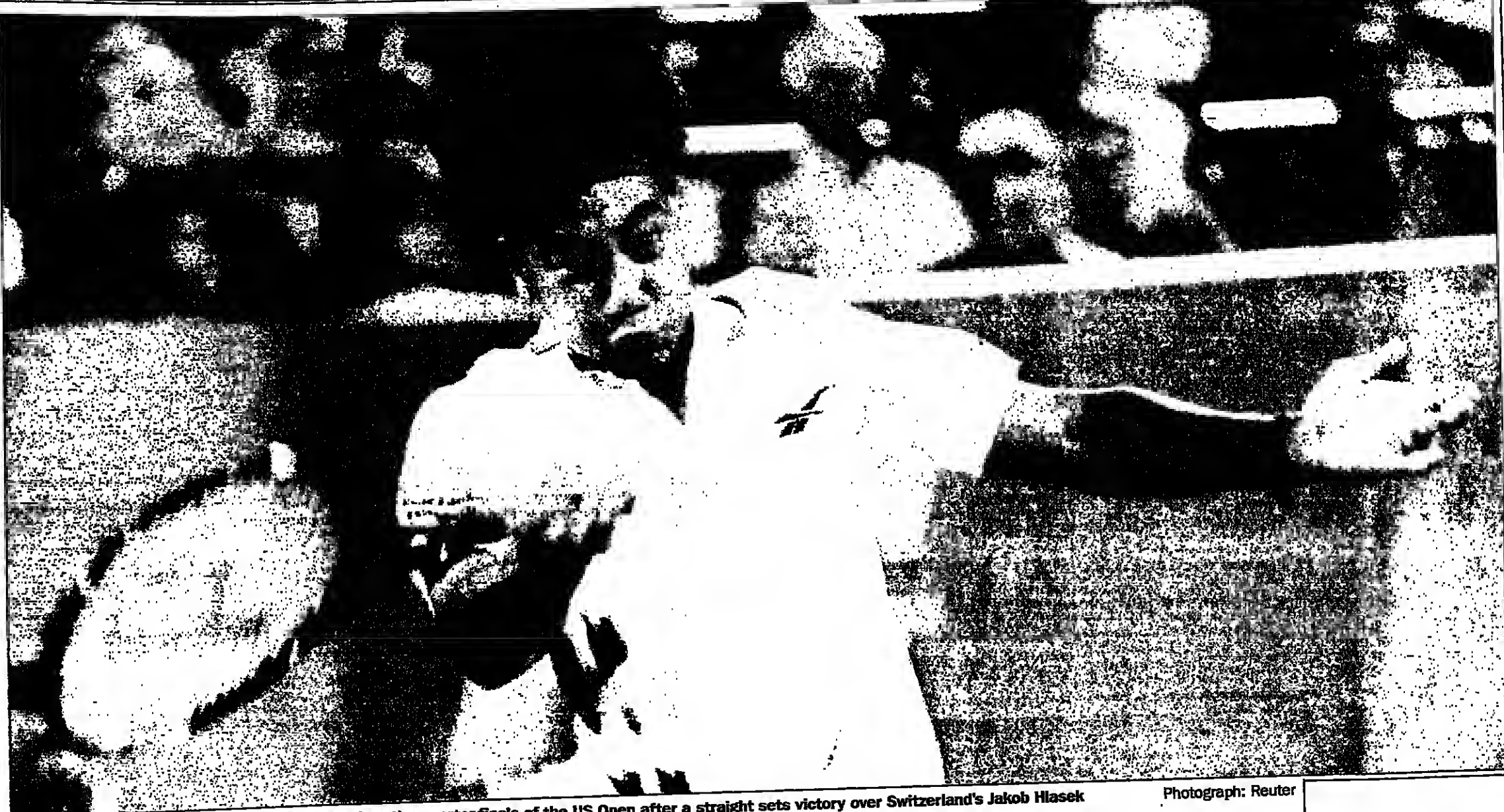
Raymond Illingworth left Lord's a happy man last night after winning his appeal against a disrepute charge.

After a five-hour hearing with the Cricket Council appeals panel, Illingworth said: "I am delighted with the result. It is a relief that now everything has ended. It has been a long, hard six months, but I feel vindicated and delighted that my name has been cleared."

Illingworth was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board in June over newspaper articles from his book, principally about the England last bowler Devon Malcolm, with whom Illingworth had a very public falling-out on last winter's tour to South Africa.

Illingworth, who retired as chairman of selectors following England's final one-day match against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Sunday, said: "I didn't want to leave the game with a disrepute charge hanging over me. As far as I'm concerned, my name has been cleared."

Report, page 5



Going through: Michael Chang powers his way into the quarter-finals of the US Open after a straight sets victory over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek

Photograph: Reuters

## Agassi promises explosive match

Tennis  
DERRICK WHYTE

Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster are ready to bring the United States Open alive with a quarter-final match between two of the game's hardest hitters.

"It's going to be big tennis," the sixth-seeded Agassi said of his meeting with the third-seeded Austrian. "Big tennis is when you get two guys trying to establish their will out there on the court."

"We both are going to be beating the ball pretty good from the baseline. You'll hear explosions off the racket four, five, six times a point. That's big tennis."

Neither player needed to raise the decibel level of his game on Monday. Muster prevailed over the 13th-seeded Swede, Thomas Enqvist, 7-6 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, despite being weakened by the effects of a stomach upset. There were no such concerns for Agassi after his 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over his American compatriot David Wheaton.

Regardless of Muster's health, Agassi is expecting the gritty left-hander to give his usual all-out effort. "I think he punches the clock every time he steps on the court," Agassi said of the 1995 French Open champion. "Every time he gets out

there, he hustles his ass to win. I don't expect him to do anything less."

The match has added spice because there is no love lost between the two players who have split their eight previous encounters.

Muster was one of the most vocal critics of the Open's decision to elevate Agassi two places in the seedings from his ATP ranking and drop the Austrian one spot.

Earlier in the year, Agassi questioned Muster's legitimacy as the world No 1 since he had won only on clay, but the American said he did not see the upcoming confrontation between the two former Grand Slam champions in personal terms.

"I think if anyone makes this more than a tennis match, it's their own issue," said Agassi, winner of the 1994 Open as well as the 1995 Australian Open and 1992 Wimbledon.

"Come on, we're in the quarter-finals of the US Open. We both have won big events before. We both want to do it again. That's what we're both going out there and trying to do. To make it anything more than that is a waste of time."

Goran Ivanisevic also made it through to the last eight yesterday. The left-handed Croatian served out 20 aces in his 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 victory over the unseeded Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine.

In another fourth-round match, Spain's Alex Corretja defeated Guy Forget of France 6-4, 6-3, 7-6. The victory earned the unseeded Corretja a match with either the defending champion, Pete Sampras, or the hard-serving Australian Mark Philippoussis. Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, took his place in the with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.

The 24-year-old Chang's next hurdle is 28-year-old Javier Sanchez of Spain, ranked 67 and with a 1996 record of 23-27. He has not played Sanchez in four years, but won all three of their early encounters.

Chang, who improved his match record to 20-2 since Wimbledon, is on course to reach the semi-finals without having to face a seeded opponent.

The seemingly indefatigable 1989 French Open champion said too many tough tests can wear you out. "I think Pete Sampras is a good example of that at the French Open this year. He had so many tough five-set matches going into semis he was very tired," Chang said of the world No 1, who had three five-setters before losing to Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the eventual champion from Russia.

Sanchez, who surprised 20th-ranked Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch 6-4 7-6 7-6, had lost in the first round of eight of his previous nine Grand Slams.

As if it were not surprising enough to find Sanchez in the second week at a major, there is not a bookmaker on the planet who would have predicted he would last longer than his famous sister, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. But that was what happened.

The third-seeded Sanchez Vicario, who won here in 1994, got a look at the future of women's tennis as she fell to 16th-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

In the quarter-finals, the 15-year-old Hingis will face the seventh-seeded Czech, Jana Novotna, who thrashed the 17th seed, Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, 6-2, 6-0 in just 50 minutes.

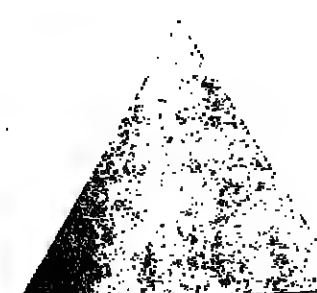
Steffi Graf, the top seed and defending champion, was not about to give way to the youth movement, however. The German world No 1 ended the exciting run of 15-year-old Russian overcomer Anna Kournikova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals for the 12th consecutive year.

"It's important to have these new faces come up," the four-time champion said of Hingis and Kournikova. "It's good to know the future of women's tennis is going to show up."

Graf continues her quest for a 21st Grand Slam singles title with a quarter-final against Austrian Judith Wiesner, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Italy's Rita Grande.



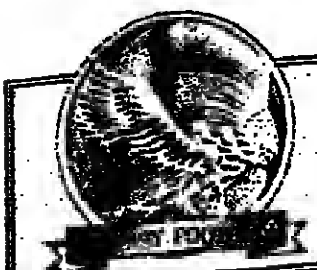
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INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL  
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## Hidden Personality

From a family of four children, today's subject is the son of a one-time Olympic boxer from Armenia. His nationality, though, is American. Dad emigrated to the US from Iran in 1952, changing his name from Emmanuel to Mike and later taking up boxing professionally for a while.

## Hartford takes charge at City

## Football

Asa Hartford, the reluctant caretaker at Maine Road, has accepted his chairman Francis Lee's offer to become manager of Manchester City.

Hartford, who is very popular with the players, had claimed that he was only interested in being assistant manager at Maine Road and would not apply to take over from Alan Ball, but after a fresh approach from Lee - who made a reported offer to double Hartford's wages - he had a change of heart before City's game with Charlton last night.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson have been charged with bringing the game into dispute after arguing with Michael Riley, a new Premiership referee.

They are not the only ones in trouble. The Coventry pair Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan have also been charged, while Sunderland have been charged after allegations that they played a suspended player, Alex Rae, in a reserve game.

Riley was verbally abused by Souness both at half-time and at

the end of Leicester's 2-1 win at Filbert Street on 21 August, triggered by the dismissal of Barry Venison. Robson lost his temper when the referee booked nine players and sent off Nigel Pearson in the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest on 24 August.

Atkinson and Strachan have been charged following Coventry's reserve match against West Bromwich last week, in which Strachan refused to leave after being sent off, halting the game for 15 minutes. Atkinson then weighed in with a verbal attack on the official.

Another referee, Paul Danson, has also reported the pair following problems at Stamford Bridge on 24 August, when Coventry lost 2-0. There were angry scenes over Chelsea's first goal after Dan Petrescu was alleged to have handled.

George Weah may be heading to Highbury in time for Christmas. The Milan striker has said he is keen to link up with Arsène Wenger, the Gunners' new manager, after the Champions' League group games. Weah, who has two years left on his contract in Italy, will be released by Milan in December, if Arsenal come up with £10m.

Arsenal's Uefa Cup first-round second-leg match with Borussia Mönchengladbach has been switched to Cologne because facilities at Borussia's stadium do not meet European requirements.

Middlesbrough's Jamie Pollock has joined the Spanish Second Division club Osasuna after rejecting a three-year contract with the Premiership side.

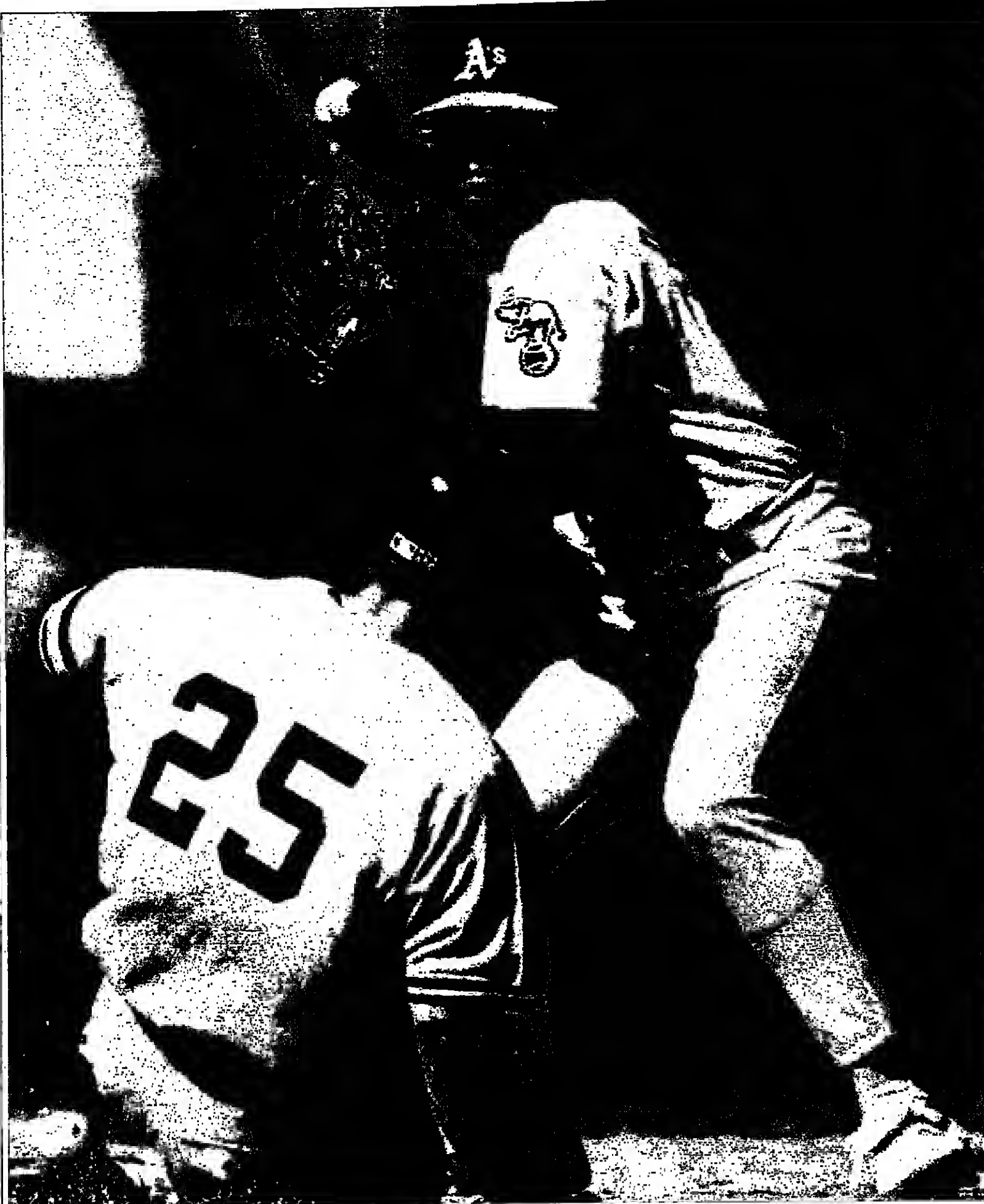
Nwankwo Kanu, the Nigerian forward signed by Internazionale this summer, has been told to retire because he is suffering from a heart defect.

Piero Volpi, the club doctor, said that the 20-year-old, who helped Nigeria win the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta, had a weak aortic valve. "The diagnosis is merciless, but that is the situation. My only consolation, as a doctor, is that the illness was discovered so that the lad can be treated," he said.

The discovery of Kanu's ailment is expected to start a legal case between Inter and Ajax about the validity of his transfer.

Tummy McLean, the former manager of Hearts, has been appointed manager of the Scottish Premier Division club Raith Rovers on a three-year contract.

## Diamonds are a Yankees' best friend



Sands up: Joe Girardi, of the New York Yankees, is forced out by Oakland Athletics' Tony Bastista in the eighth innings of a Major League match in California on Monday night. But the Yankees still ran the Athletics ragged, winning 5-0. Photograph: AP

## Nielsen prepares for unfamiliar surroundings

Allan Nielsen, Tottenham's new £1.65m signing from Denmark, makes his Premiership debut against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tonight - without most of the players he thought he was joining.

Teddy Sheringham, Chris Armstrong, Gary Mabbutt and Dean Austin are all on a lung injury list which has again disrupted Garry Francis's start to the season.

Goalkeeper Ian Walker, who damaged his back training with England at the weekend, and Darren Anderton, still inhibited by abdominal stress from the major surgery which forced him to miss seven months of last season, are both highly doubtful.

Francis is likely to play winger Ruel Fox as a central striker to save 18-year-old Rory Allen a daunting Premiership debut, but said: "It is fair to assume Rory will be involved in some way. He is all I have left as cover for the strikers."

Nigerian striker Efan Ekoku takes over the onerous mantle

of Wimbledon's goalscoring responsibilities from Dean Holdsworth, who is currently out of favour with the Dons' manager, Joe Kinnear, and may be on his way out of Selhurst Park. Wimbledon have yet to score this season.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is refusing to be carried away by their unbeaten start to the season. The London side can cut Sheffield Wednesday's lead at the top to two points by winning at Arsenal tonight, but Gullit said: "Current positions in the league are irrelevant."

"Maybe after seven or eight games you will begin to see which teams will be up there at the end of the season, but three games is not a realistic time to measure a team's quality."

Stewart Houston, who is in temporary charge at Highbury, is not underestimating the visitors. "Chelsea have caught the imagination with their summer signings and they all seem to have settled in quickly. I watched them in their opening game at

Southampton and Vialli, Leboeuf and Di Matteo have given them a great strength through the middle," he said.

West Ham will give their Danish defender, Marc Rieper, a late fitness test before the trip to Middlesbrough. John Moncur, Jan Bishop and Tony Cottee are still injured, but Harry Redknapp can call on his Romanian duo Florin Raducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu for the first time this season.

Middlesbrough will be without their captain, Nigel Pearson, but manager Bryan Robson said: "It is a very exciting fixture with so many overseas players involved. Harry has done a remarkable job at West Ham because when he came in they were regarded as relegation material, but all that has changed now."

Graeme Souness is to give debuts to new signings Claus Lundekvam and Robbie Slater as Southampton look for their first victory of the season against Nottingham Forest at The Dell.

## Davies loses her touch

## Golf

Laura Davies, who birdied six of the final seven holes at the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois, and made a 25ft bunker shot on the last hole to join a three-way play-off, finally lost her touch.

America's Barb Whitehead missed her chance to win on Monday when her 40ft chip shot struck the pin on the first extra hole and bounced away. So it fell to her compatriot Michelle McGann, whose 12ft putt for birdie on the third hole of extra play gave her the victory.

"I knew this course would give up a lot of birdies," McGann, who has earned three of her five tour wins in play-offs, said. "I knew whoever made the most putts would win."

McGann, Davies and Whitehead completed the 54 holes at 14 under par, all level at 202. After the three made par on the first two play-off holes, they returned to the par-four 18th. "I knew I had to be aggressive," McGann, who hit a final-round 68, said. "I had to have a birdie at least. That was a pivotal hole." The win was McGann's third of the year and was worth \$86,250 (£56,600).

Davies, who hit 66, finished the regulation play in impressive fashion. The tour's leading money-winner, however, fell victim to poor driving in sudden-death play and bogeyed the final hole. "I just let things happen," she said. "The front nine was really disappointing. I thought I'd make some birdies on the back nine."

Davies took a break from the US tour and flew back to Britain to compete in the European Women's Open, which starts at Ware, Hertfordshire, tomorrow.

Scores, Digest, Page 9



A jubilant Michelle McGann, from Florida, lifts the trophy after winning a three-way play-off in the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois. Photograph: AP

## Geoghegan seeks US help

## Rugby Union

Simon Geoghegan, Bath's Irish winger, will travel to the United States at the weekend for surgery on both feet. "I am going to San Diego on Sunday and will have operations on both toe joints by an orthopaedic surgeon who specialises in that particular area," he said.

"I just hope it works out and that I will be able to regain full fitness. It has been frustrating and extremely disappointing."

Geoghegan, who scored a try in Bath's opening match against Orrell, will miss the match at Leicester on Saturday. He has had recurring trouble with the joints and an operation in London during the summer failed to solve the problem.

Valaig Tuigamala has been cleared to make his debut for Waspas. The Department for Education and Employment have relented and granted the rugby league player and former All Black winger a work permit.

Tuigamala will play for Wigan in the Premiership final at Old Trafford on Sunday, and is expected to play in the Courage League on Saturday week, when Waspas play Bath at the Recreation Ground.

Tuigamala may be up against some familiar faces as two of his Wigan team-mates, Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, are due to make their debuts for Bath in the match.

Waspas had threatened legal action after their initial application for a work permit was turned down on the grounds that Tuigamala did not meet the criterion of having played international rugby in the last 18 months. His last match for the All Blacks, before his move to Wigan, was in 1993.

However, the Department for Education and Employment advised the Rugby Football Union yesterday that they were prepared to allow Tuigamala to play for Waspas.

A spokesman for the RFU said: "We are pleased to support

the Department of Education and Employment on this exceptional basis. Tuigamala has demonstrated that he has been a truly outstanding rugby union player and is at international standard in rugby league."

Tuigamala, who had considered returning to visit his family in New Zealand this winter, has signed a short-term contract with Waspas and will be available until the first week in January.

"Although I'm focused on Wigan's Premiership final meeting with St Helens at Old Trafford on Sunday, I'm looking forward to linking up with Waspas and rugby union again," he said.

Martin Offiah is determined to overcome a toe injury and make his debut for Bedford against Nottingham on Saturday. He is keen to play for his new club after being forced to miss London Broncos' Super League Premiership play-off game against St Helens last Sunday.

"I'll see how it is later in the week and make a decision then."

I'm looking forward to a new challenge at Bedford and I hope I can run them in a lot of tries," Offiah said.

Bedford's Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, and his new player-coach, Paul Turner, both admitted they were not as far forward in their preparation as they would have liked.

"We are in discussion with some second row forwards because we have identified a problem in our line-out," Turner said. "We hope to make an announcement about a new signing later this week."

Sale have parted company with Brian Wilkinson, their chief executive and director of rugby. They have appointed Richard Trickey, the club president, as their new rugby director. He will be assisted by Steve Smith, the former England captain.

A new chief executive will be appointed in a few days. The club would not comment on the reasons behind Wilkinson's departure.

## WRU's night of reconciliation

## ROBERT COLE

The Welsh Rugby Union will sit down with its 12 senior clubs tonight in a last ditched effort to stop the national game being ripped apart.

The First Division clubs are already recommending to their members that they back their bid to go it alone and look after their own affairs - principally the money-spinning aspects of competition sponsorship and television deals.

The chairman of First Division Rugby Limited, Peter Thomas, said: "We have a great rugby product to put forward for players and fans alike. So far the Union has stymied that - the WRU has had a chance and failed. We feel that we may need

to look after our own affairs. Each club has budgeted for its own affairs this season but the WRU can't meet the financial fulfilment we require to make the books balance."

"We want to work with the WRU, but we are now a professional body. We put forward plans for an Anglo-Welsh competition and a European tournament on a home and away basis. We want to work with the WRU and not against them, but commercial common sense must prevail."

"You can't run a business while holding out a begging bowl. We need to have clear dialogue with them."

After the clubs, who insist they are not seceding, had made their proposals pub-

lic in the wake of a meeting with their England counterparts at Bristol last Friday, the WRU responded by declaring they would be "surprised and disappointed" at a breakaway that would jeopardise the whole fabric of the game in Wales.

There is also the threat of the Union expelling the 12 clubs if they go their own way but Gareth Davies, Cardiff's chief executive, was adamant that "these are difficult times in the game. It is all about control. We have a product and we want control of that. Why should people make money on our backs?"

"You see it in football where the clubs run the game. They have shown the way ahead. We have got genuine problems and one way to solve those problems is to get together with the Eng-

lish clubs and make some meaningful competitions that are attractive to players and fans. The ball is in the Union's court."

Thousands of cheering New Zealanders lined the streets of Auckland yesterday to welcome home the All Blacks. Supporters of all ages gathered to pay tribute to the first All Black team to beat the Springboks in a series on South African soil. The All Blacks, dubbed "The Invincibles" after their 2-1 series win, were carried by a cavalcade of floats and cars through a sea of black and white banners. In all, New Zealand won three Tests in the Republic, the third being part of the Tri-Nations series involving Australia. Under their new coach, John Hart, they won nine of the 10 tests they played this season.



# Concrete and tarmac and a charm of its own

## BEING THERE

The US Open, about as far as you can get from Wimbledon, is a show well worth the queuing, says David Usborne

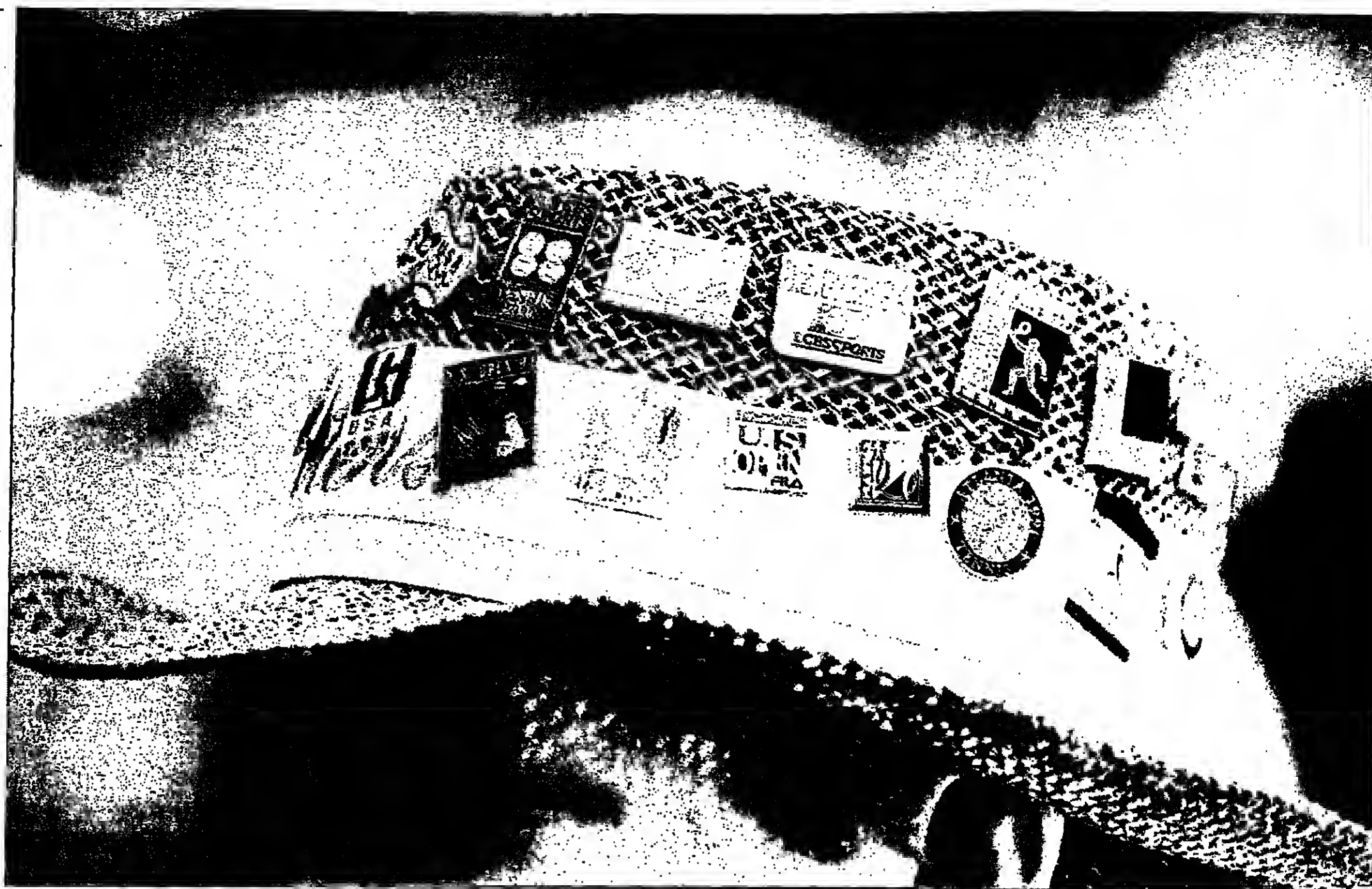
**T**here are various ways of getting into the US Open at New York's Flushing Meadow. The best is to have friends in high corporate places with space in one of their boxes in the lower terraces of the stadium, the giant cauldron that is this tournament's less-than-intimate Centre Court. You can write off for tickets by post months in advance and cross your fingers that you might get a couple. Or you can punish yourself with the spur-of-the-moment approach and queue outside the grounds on one of the mornings of play.

This last strategy is risky but not without hope, since the organisers keep 1,000 tickets back for sale on the morning of each day at the ticket booths. But you do have to begin queuing early. On a day like this one, when the skies are a crystal blue and Pete Sampras is due in the stadium, that means turning up at 6am, five and a half hours before the start of play. Rolling up on a No 7 subway train from Manhattan - plastered for the two weeks of the Open with a cutesy Nike campaign featuring funny tennis remarks by John McEnroe - at a little after 10 o'clock will not do.

Had I known, of course, I would have surrendered to the first scalper who approached me with the offer of a \$25 stadium ticket for \$75. But why subsidise their sleazy dealings, I reason, happily convinced that the line snaking before me will soon be moving? I start to worry when after the first hour of standing there, the skin on my forehead blistering in the sun, my new-found queuing acquaintance, Jennifer from Northern Ireland via Florida, cracks and dispatches her husband to the scalpers. "Let's go watch some tennis," he quips annoyingly on his return, hailing Jennifer from the line.

Unbelievably, it is at the very instant that I reach the ticket booths, two hours after I started, that the announcement is made. "There are no more tickets available for today. Please try again tomorrow. Thank you for visiting the US Open at Flushing Meadow." Slowly the disappointed throngs begin to thin, encouraged by the security guy with the bull-horn. He turns out to be a real actor. "There are NO MORE TICKETS. Nothing, zilch, nada, squat." I and a few hardy optimists refuse to budge. "You folks," says our bull-horn friend, "are the ones in Las Vegas who will never leave the table." Ynp.

I am adopted by Peg, Paula and Fay, three fifty-something golden girls from Manhattan, who on this day seem to have mislaid the corporate and famous-people invites they claim they usually have. They flirt with me, because I am before them and if four tickets should, by some miracle, suddenly come up, they want us to be a cosy group. They flirt even more fiercely with the boy who is still sitting by his computer at the ticket window in front of us. Finally, at 1.09pm, he beckons us. YES - someone has cancelled and there are four tickets for grounds admis-



Enthusiasm inside and outside the gates at Flushing Meadow: securing a ticket is a matter of patience, guile or money

Photographs: Justin Sutcliffe

sion only, for \$20 each. We snatch them. Flushing Meadow. After a less than one-second pause at the security table and a warm goodbye to the golden girls, I pass through the gates and stop to contemplate my achievement as well as the surroundings. I had known not to expect a New York equivalent of Wimbledon, with champagne, Virginia creeper and strawberries, but the brutality of where I find myself is still a shock. For years, I had the notion that Flushing Meadow was some posh resort place in Florida or perhaps South Carolina. Instead, it is an entirely charmless complex of concrete and tarmac, its bleakness barely relieved by the blue and white concessions selling hats and ice-creams. To satisfy my thirst, I must queue again for a \$4 bottle of Evian. Worse, I discover that during my endurance test outside, I missed Tim Henman winning his second-round match on one of the outer courts.

The US Tennis Association is trying to improve the Flushing venue. A new, more modern centre court has already risen alongside the existing stadium ready for inauguration next year. Worryingly, though, it will rise even higher than the stadium, which can seat 20,000, and increase capacity for the biggest matches to 23,000. Nothing can be done to erase the less-than-pastoral setting of the Meadow, however.

It is hemmed in on all sides by expressways and noisy railway lines. At least the aircraft noise is kept down by an agreement between the USTA and New York, which demands that aircraft from nearby Kennedy and La Guardia airports are diverted from the air above for the duration of the tournament. (Too many violations of this and the city is fined.)

I head for the grandstand, the No 2 court to which I am entitled entry with my general ticket. (The stadium is, theoretically, out of bounds.) Tucked on to the side of the stadium, the grandstand shares the same

**Just when you want to catch up with the score, commercials like 'Tampax is Trust' flash across the board**

bowels, a foul-aided intestine of hreez-block corridors, jammed with concession stalls. On the occasional television monitor that shows the progress of whatever match you are missing, a special message flashes. It is about the only mirthful thing I see all day: "Due to the Weather Conditions We advise you to Seek Shade and Drink Plenty of Fluids." Have the organisers been out into the grandstand or the stadium, I wonder? Shade comes courtesy of clouds only.

On the grandstand benches, I at last get my first glimpse of tennis: Helena Sukova versus Conchita Martinez. I am certain that the super-tall Sukova, whose movements are those of a nervous racehorse until the moment she pauses to meet the ball when she is all slow-motion

grace, is going to be the winner here. So, of course, in three straight sets, she loses. I leave disappointed, wondering what it is like inside the stadium next door and irritated by the commercials that keep flashing across the scoreboards between games, just when you want to catch up with where the match stands. "Tampax is Trust" hardly helps.

It is time for the walk-in-as-if-you-own-the-place stratagem. Looking purposeful,



I bolt into a stadium entranceway and head to the top of the terraces. Easy as pie. Soon I am the defender of surely the best spot at the whole Open - the uppermost row of the stadium's east side that offers an unobstructed if somewhat distant view of the stadium court itself (binoculars definitely recommended) as well as a remarkable bird's-eye panorama of the grandstand court behind and below. This means I can watch two matches simultaneously. Straight beneath me - I am literally suspended above the net - Gabriela Sabatini is bravely trying to repel the deep and powerful shots of Asa Carlson, while on the stadium court, the No 1 seed, Sampras, is sinking into serious trouble against the youngster from the Czech Republic, Jiri Novak.

So, I admit, I start to have fun. It is only the will of the grandstand crowd that carries Sabatini through the second set, to tie with Carlson who had taken the first. The anguish is palpable, even up here in the gods, when she produces two awful service games in the third and finally surrenders the match. It is the high upset of the day.

"I know this doesn't have the charm or the beauty of Wimbledon," ventures Molly Winder, a Londoner on the bench next to me, who was at the English championship this year. "But there is something about the energy and excitement of being here. People are always exchanging opin-

ions and comments, whereas at Wimbledon it is so much more low key."

I turn my attention back to the stadium which by now is nearly full. Even the old lady in the wide-brimmed hat in what must be the New York equivalent of the Royal Box has shaken herself into consciousness.

Sampras has just lost the fourth set against Novak, making it two sets all and the spectre of another upset is suddenly looming. It is 2-1 Novak, with Sampras getting ready to serve, when the crowd suddenly explodes into applause for no apparent reason.

**The crowd explodes into applause for no apparent reason. The stadium is making it plain whom it supports**

The stadium is making it plain whom it supports. A black woman behind me - one of the very few black faces in spite of our being in Queens - is screaming over and over: "C'mon Petey, this is the Grand Slam."

An hour later and Novak has been thrillingly overcome and all my frustrations of earlier in the day are forgotten. "That's the wonderful thing about tennis," a father explains to his young daughter as we file out from the terraces. "You never know if the matches are going to be boring, or incredibly exciting like that one."

She looks at him doubtfully, but I have to agree. It is time, though, to get back to John McEnroe and the No 7 to the Manhattan dusk.

## Authorities must consider game at all levels

**From Mr N Hynes**  
There is considerable anger here in Ireland at the Rugby Football Union's decision to "go it alone".

Many of us have played at all levels against counterparts in England. I played as a schoolboy in 1973 against St George's, Weybridge, and played my last match in September 1995 as a guest for Old Reigians. We regularly host club sides from England and they enjoy the camaraderie of mingling with people who share their love of rugby.

The counter-measures being considered would preclude contact at all levels. Who will the English schoolboys play? It would be ludicrous to suggest touring every year at that level. The feeder system that has been nurtured over the last 15 years will be destroyed.

We do not want a rift between the clubs and the RFU. We will not accept the attitude adopted by Mr Richardson, the RFU president. I agree that there is nothing better to raise the dander of a Celt than the prospect of a tilt against the old enemy. It is respectful and win or lose,

we enjoy the conviviality of post-match celebrations. Do not split with the RFU, I say to English clubs, give Mr Richardson a brain.

NIAL HYNES  
Dublin

**From Tetteh Turkson**  
Having read David Llewellyn's report on the imminent rugby union season in today's *Independent* (28 August), I am in agreement with much of what he has said. However, to suggest that association football shows money cannot buy success is surely naive. Although Blackburn may be in the doldrums, we know that a few flashes of Jack Walker's newly replenished chequebook will put them once again in a position to win trophies. Football shows us that those clubs with financial back-up will consistently outperform gutsy teams, even with proud traditions.

However, football has shown money is not the only thing. Teams cannot buy history, tradition and a desire in players.

On the playing front, this rugby union season is no less exciting and

## SPORTING LETTERS

**novel.** The key to transfers seems to me to be to retain young players with potential and to consolidate these with one or two (or more if you can afford them) big signings. Thus Harlequins may live to regret the loss of Will Greenwood and Simon Mitchell, both of whom have big futures, to major rivals. Saracens have bought themselves a real chance of honours with Lynagh and Sella, the best in the world in their respective positions at their peak.

I see Northampton as also having a good chance of being just behind "the gang of four". They have not yet been major players in the transfer market, but already have great quality in all areas. Add this to the team spirit gained from relegation and the best coach in the northern hemi-

sphere and you have a potent combination.

They only lack the depth of talent of "the gang of four", but should be able to overcome most of the rest. Remember, also, how comprehensively they beat even London Irish last season in National League Two and how close they were to Bath in the Pilkington Cup. With perhaps one or two signings, they might challenge the might of union's top teams of the decade.

TETTEH TURKSON  
London SE5

**From Mr D Nicol**  
I am writing to express my concern about possible preferential treatment by the Test and County Cricket Board towards certain countries when allocating tours to England.

First, how do South Africa justify a whole summer in 1998 when Pakistan, a far better side, are only given three Tests this year?

Second, why does the TCCB have to plan so far in advance when other countries are quite able to arrange tours for visiting sides at short no-

tice? Examples of this are the announcement last week of a Sri Lankan tour to New Zealand next March, only six months from now. Also the hurried way in which South Africa were admitted to the 1992 World Cup in Australia. Surely Sri Lanka should be given a three-Test tour and 1998 would be an ideal time to do this, giving South Africa three Tests as well.

I am sure the still all-white South African team would agree to this. Alternatively, next year when Australia are here, invite Sri Lanka over for a mid-summer triangular one-day tournament. It is time the TCCB were far less rigid in their planning and it is time that the most exciting cricketing nations were invited here.

D NICOL  
Lower Kingswood, Surrey

Letters should be marked "For publication" and contain daytime and evening telephone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be edited for reasons of space.

## SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 12 FOUL

"Owl Foul!" we would cry in our young sporting days, clattering to the ground as the playground tough jabbed his boot between our ankles. Growing older we learned other, more satisfying words which could be spluttered through clenched teeth as we collided with the turf. We also learned that our parents and teachers preferred it when we just said "foul".

It turns out that maybe the teachers were right. The first dictionary definition of foul is "grossly offensive to the senses...loathsomeness; primarily with reference to the odour or appearance indicative of putridity or corruption". Which unlike our later expletives ("Coarse slang...Copulate") sums up the distasteful deed very well.

Like many other words, "foul" seems to have entered the sporting vernacular because it is brutally straightforward: not quite swearing, but still pretty strong stuff. Used adjacently, foul was often associated with hell. "Wykked folk shall fall down into hell that foule doggon," warned a metrical homily of the 14th century. Football still re-

calls the association - to say a player "has the devil in him", for example, is normally a euphemistic way of putting: "He is so desperate to score he fouls all the time".

One can also measure the gentility of sports by what they take to be foul play. A foul blow in boxing is the wrong bit of your opponent. A foul in football usually means you have deliberately come into contact with another player. The more dignified world of snooker counts a foul as hitting the wrong ball or even missing the right one. Cricket does not use the word at all.

Thus the most traditionally sporting of sports have no specialised vocabulary to describe the physical or verbal clabbering of participants. This is a shame, for it leaves the subject of an offence deprived of both dignity and vernacular. In such a situation, one may either attempt to reclaim the dignity of the game with a discreet silence, or make a grab for the first piece of vernacular which springs to mind ("Owl \*\*\*\*").

Ben Summers



# 4 the cricket pages

NatWest Trophy Final: Essex and Lancashire meet at Lord's on Saturday

## Yorkshire pair come face to face

**Michael Austin spoke to Glen Chapple whose talent with seam has helped him, at 22, to his third Lord's final**

Already, Glen Chapple is his own man. Fresh-faced and freckled, maybe, and perhaps lacking the brushiness of a young fan Botham, who took on the world and won. But, at 22, the Lancashire seam bowler is just three days away from his third Lord's final, in the NatWest Trophy against Essex.

Chapple has studious, smouldering thoughts and "talks" a good game, as well as turning theory into practice - the triple legacy of playing since the age of six, an upbringing in the Lancashire leagues and being an eager listener to those such as the Pakistan captain Wasim Akram in the Old Trafford dressing-room.

Going back to Lord's, he believes, is the hard part, or rather travelling to the ground. Chapple said: "The journey there on match-morning is the most nervous time. Once I'm changed, the tension goes and I enjoy it. The best bit of my two Benson & Hedges finals was actually being on the field when we won."

Lancashire beat both Kent and Northamptonshire, with Chapple being preferred, somewhat controversially, to the Zimbabwean overseas player Steve Elworthy for the second match two months ago. Chapple's own memories are of dismissing both Kent openers, Trevor Ward and David Fulton, cheaply last year, "howling the odd doozy over" and taking two more wickets last time.

A Yorkshire accent conceals Chapple's Lancashire roots. Born in the Dales town of Skipton, famous for its castle and street market, he has lived in Earby, adjacent to Barnoldswick, renowned for its all-different 12-letter name and mattress industry.

Cricket has still not been a bed of roses, red or white, for Chapple, despite his record 16 games, spanning six "Test" series, for England Under-19 from the age of 17, together with his prominent part in the England A team's 3-0 win in India two winters ago. There was nothing to choose between his excellence and that of his new-ball partner Dominic Cork, since an England graduate.

Phil Neale, the team manager, recalled: "Chapple and Cork were the significant duo. Chapple had an outstanding tour. We lost the toss in every 'Test' on turning wickets but our opening bowlers had 31 wickets between them, compared with their 13. Chapple, who took 19, and Cork, with 12, invariably knocked over two or three early batsmen, which was crucial." Chapple has swiftly developed into a richly promising seam and swing bowler. Lithe and strong, he possesses a winner's temperament but reflects on the Indian tour like someone celebrating a silver wedding anniversary while trying to recall his first date. "It all seems a long time ago," he said. "The pitches were flat and low and we just bowled accurately. My own season after that tour was just average. I lost form, had a few injuries but this summer has been all right. I have not set the world alight, yet not taken any backward steps."

Chapple is approaching 50 first-class wickets this summer, including 5 for 99 for The Rest against England A at Chelmsford in April, and 70 wickets in all competitions, an achievement far removed from his formative years as a Lancashire Schools player. Educated at West Craven



Chapple: nearing 50 first-class wickets this season Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport

"I have already played a lot of cricket for a 22-year-old and even if you win a full Test cap, the learning process goes on. I do not have just one mentor but take advice from a lot of players, including batsmen. Wasim has helped. Paul Allott, too. I am open to ideas but I do sort things out for myself."

Chapple is approaching 50 first-class wickets this summer, including 5 for 99 for The Rest against England A at Chelmsford in April, and 70 wickets in all competitions, an achievement far removed from his formative years as a Lancashire Schools player. Educated at West Craven

High School and Nelson & Colne College, he took tentative steps in the Ribblesdale League as an Early first-teamer at the age of 15, had a season with Kearsley in the Bolton League, made his Lancashire Second XI debut at Canterbury when 16 and was in the first team two years later.

Chapple, a six-handicap golfer, already has four cricket tours in six winters behind him, two to India, and others to New Zealand and Pakistan, together with 58 first-class games, 160 wickets and a maiden century against Glamorgan at Old Trafford three years ago. The pillaged 100 from 27 balls in an

innings was tartly described by one cricket annual as "in contrived circumstances". His highest authentic score is 58 against Durham last year.

Whatever Saturday and the future holds for Chapple, England remains within his sights. "Having said I am happy with my form, I have just not done enough to reach Test level. I will just keep trying and thinking about my game." While doing so, Chapple will ponder on the motto of his native town, also the birthplace of the Leicestershire captain James Whitaker. It reads: "Industria et Spe." In translation: "Labour and Hope."

**Jon Cufley finds Paul Grayson in confident mood after his move south to Essex has seen a return to form, and runs**

"I'm Essex through and through," Paul Grayson says, as if to emphasise his professional commitment, in the way sportsmen do. There is nothing odd in the statement at all, except that it is delivered in an accent rather closer to Darren Gough than Graham Gooch.

Grayson, 25 last March, is a Yorkshireman and in his heart would probably sooner be sporting a white rose on his cap against the red of Lancashire in Saturday's NatWest Trophy final. Instead, following his winter move to Chelmsford, he will arrive at Lord's wearing the three seaxes of the southern county.

There are not too many others in the Essex dressing-room whose vowels come out like his. The closest, ironically, belong to Ronnie Irani, the exiled Lancastrian. But in no way does Grayson feel uncomfortable with his new allegiance. "I'd always wanted to play cricket for Yorkshire but I had become pretty unhappy with the way things were and coming here has worked out really well for me," he said. "And even though it is Lancashire we meet on Saturday, I'll be trying to win for Essex, not Yorkshire."

His happy days at Headingley began to go sour, oddly, in the wake of his best year, when he had seemed to be developing into a useful batsman, with a place in Yorkshire's middle-order there for the taking.

"When Richie Richardson went home suffering from fatigue in 1994, I'd batted at No 4 and made runs," he said. "It was my best season and I thought I had done well enough to secure my place in the team. I was under the impression the club were satisfied and it looked as though they would take on a bowler as the overseas player for 1995. But then things changed and they went back to looking for a batter. Michael Bevan came and I found myself dropping down to No 7 again. To make matters worse, after three or four bad games I was left out of the team."

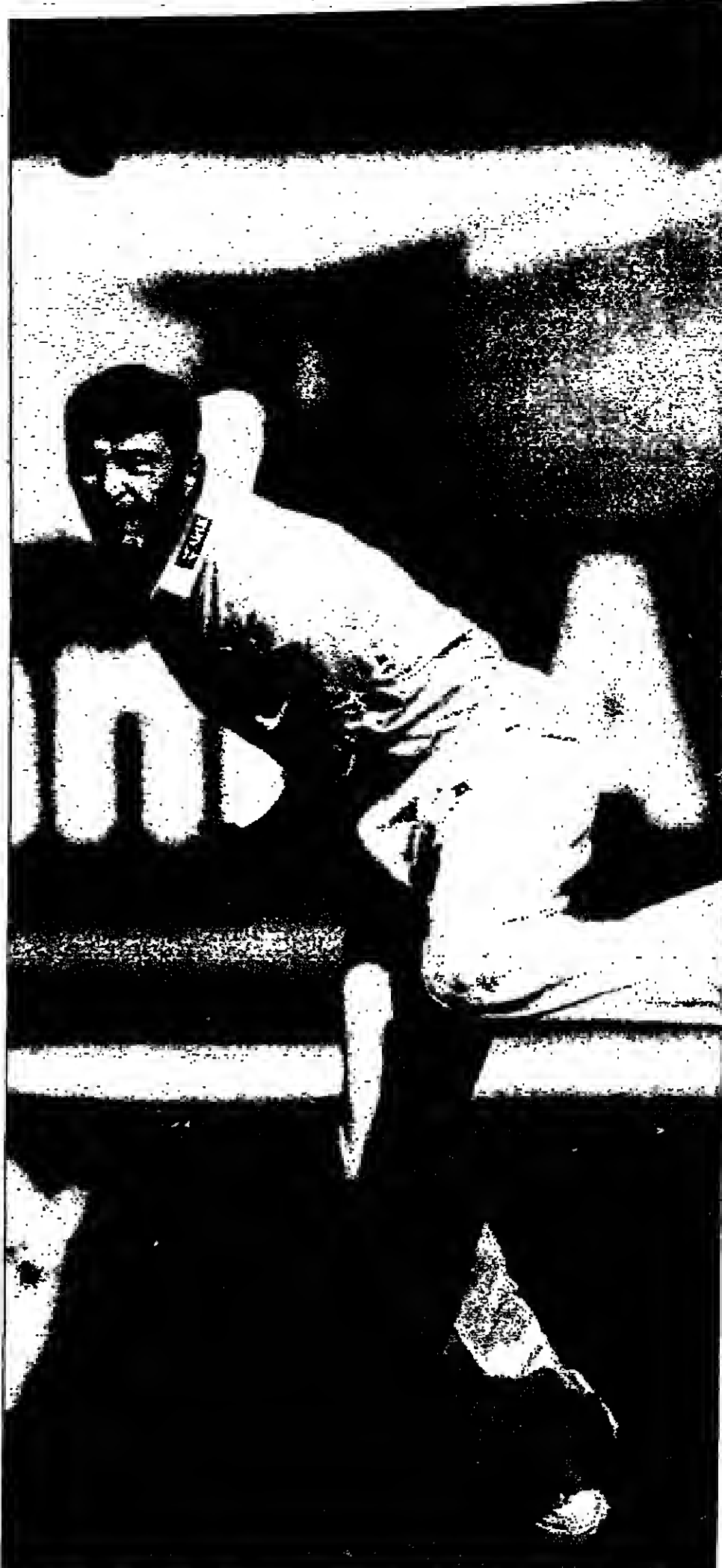
Soon, the positive way in which the previous summer had ended, his maiden century and the run of scores that had taken him past 1,000 for the season, seemed to be a fading memory. He went to the captain to confess his disillusionment.

"Although I was still getting games in the Sunday League and the NatWest," he said, "I wanted to play in the Championship. But they did not seem to have much confidence in me."

"I told Martyn Moxon I was pretty unhappy. He said he did not want me to leave but that he respected how I felt and told me he would talk to the committee. Happily, they understood my situation and did not contest my move."

He was delighted when word of his unrest caused Essex to take an interest, even more when they offered him a three-year contract. From their point of view, Grayson represented another opportunity to turn one county's reject into their valuable asset.

Already they have reaped a dividend. With two more first-class centuries to his name, Grayson is averaging in the 40s



Grayson: rewarding Essex's faith in his ability Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

and closing on another 1,000-run season. "People ask me how Essex get the best out of people and I tell them that in my case they have given me a lot of confidence by believing in me," he said. "When you go out you feel you have their complete backing, which was not the case at Yorkshire." Indeed, with Darren Robinson out with a broken finger, they may well demonstrate their faith by asking him to open on Saturday.

But if the words of encouragement in the dressing-room come with an alien twang, support from elsewhere will sound more like home. Friends and family from Bedale, where he

grew up, and Bradford, where he lives, will be at Lord's in numbers, although with one notable absentee in his elder brother, Simon, who is due to be playing Premiership football with Leicester City instead.

"My father was the PE teacher at the school we went to and we grew up playing sports together," he said. "We'd nag my dad to unlock the sports hall for us on Sunday afternoons even. Simon played cricket for Yorkshire Schools and I was offered an apprenticeship at Middlesbrough, so we both could have taken up the other's career. In the end, each of us did what we wanted most."

"We've always been close and in a way our lives have followed a similar path in that we have both had to leave Yorkshire to develop our careers. He had ambitions with Leeds and it was a disappointment to him when he did not fit in with Howard Wilkinson's plans."

"But his career has taken off at Leicester and I'd like to think mine will with Essex. I feel really at home there. I've been in rented accommodation this year while my wife has stayed on in Bradford but we have a baby on the way and we'll be looking to move down to Chelmsford as a family." An Essex man is born...

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## A ban on overseas players? Just remember that first ball Shane Warne bowled Gattling - and Gattling's face

The race to sign Waqar Younis (won by Glamorgan) seems to confirm the powerful position of the overseas player in our domestic cricket season. Several counties were queuing up to woo the prized reverse swinger, and no wonder - he's a man you'd rather have with you than against you. Mushtaq Ahmed has emerged from the mayhem he caused in the Test series to confirm that he, too, is anxious to play for Somerset next season, and is hoping to bag a hundred wickets or so.

This is good news for county cricket, a game that needs all the help it can get. Just as the sudden appearance of top foreign footballers has injected life and style into our musclebound Premier League, so the presence of the best overseas cricketers has given lustre to an otherwise pooterish competition. You have only to consider the talents that have spent

their summers here in recent years: Brian Lara, Allan Donald, Aravinda de Silva, Carl Hooper, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop, Anil Kumble, Mushtaq Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Sachin Tendulkar, Mark Waugh... it is a long and impressive list.

And it is part of a tradition that goes back a long way. The roll call of great names sounds like a *Who's Who* of international cricket: Gary Sobers, Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, Allan Border, Martin Crowe, Richard Hadlee, Imran Khan, Mike Procter, Barry Richards and scores of others. What kind of summers would we have had if these men had not warmed them?

So it is odd that voices should increasingly be raised against the presence of overseas players in our counties. Lancashire

have been leading the argument, proposing that we might do better without them, that they are merely using us as a finishing school to perfect their own talents (entirely ignoring the flip side, which is that we get the chance both to learn from them and to work them out). The recent Aclford report actually went so far as to propose a ban on imports. Fortunately, the counties voted it out. But there will be a "moratorium" in 1999, the year of the World Cup, when the world's top players will be unavailable, and there is still plenty of muttering to the effect that the ban should be extended into the next millennium.

Is it just me, or is all this talk absolutely juvenile and beyond belief? Talk about shooting ourselves in the foot. We know from bitter experience how we have fared, in recent years, against West Indian and



ROBERT WINDER

Pakistani bowlers. How on earth do we think we would perform were we not forewarned by meeting them in county games. Just imagine: there'd be a lot of gossip, as the players boarded planes to the Caribbean, about these chaps Marshall and Holding - apparently they were a bit nippy. Our players would insist that they weren't nervous - hell, no. They'd faced Muntion and Iltis

and Goughie, this Amrose fellow couldn't be worse than that.

Or what if they were heading out for Pakistan, having never faced Wasim, Waqar and Mushtaq Ahmed? Swing bowling? Oh, please... there isn't anything we don't know about swing bowling. We've all taken big hundreds off Sidebottom at Headingley - and you're not trying to tell me that this Waqar something-or-other moves the ball more than Arnie? As for the so-called wrist-spin of Mushtaq Ahmed - well, you just twat it, don't you. Leg spin is help-yourself bowling, we all know that.

There aren't many fields where isolation helps. And the idea that the highly paid overseas stars are keeping promising young England players out of the limelight... well, what are we saying? That we need to make room for the

11th best player in Worcester, or Leicester, or Durham; that the nation's 12th men are the future of the game? The sad truth is that the boot is, if anything, on the other foot. Overseas stars, are, increasingly, turning their back on our shattering assault course of a season. Brian Lara tore up his contract with Warwickshire, Brian McMillan was urged not to join Surrey, and when Warwickshire sounded out Shane Warne they were told politely where to put their offer. There are signs that even the impoverished West Indians, who up to now have needed the work, will soon be less available than once they were.

Far from banning them, we need to devise a domestic cricket structure that will appeal to these players. Indeed, our best chance of international success is to keep putting them through the county hoop. One

season was enough to scramble Lara's self-belief; surely, if we can get our hands on Shane Warne, we could give him some serious injury or other, or at least bore the zip out of his bowling.

Of course it would be appealing, as a spectator, to have the thrill of finally coming up against opponents we had only read about until then. But for our national cricket team it would surely be disastrous. That first ball Shane Warne bowled to Gattling a few years ago, the wonder ball that took out his off stump - remember the look of bemusement on Gattling's face? That image should be pinned to the desk of everyone who thinks overseas players should be excluded. It would swiftly become the emblematic expression of English cricket - startled, confused, disbelieving, and out for the count.



# ace Vindicated Illingworth walks away in dignity

DAVID LLEWELYN

Ray Illingworth was last night fully exonerated after his successful appeal against a £2,000 fine, £500 costs and a reprimand from Lord's over the Devco Malcolm affair.

Illingworth, the former England captain and current chairman of selectors, can now step into retirement after a proud career with his dignity restored and plenty of stinging criticism via his solicitor, Michael

Lawrence - for the Test and County Cricket Board. After a five-hour hearing at Lord's, Illingworth said: "It's been a long hard six months. It is a great relief that the matter is now concluded, we are naturally delighted at the result and feel we have been vindicated. As far as I'm concerned, my name has been cleared. I can go to my villa in Spain and ride off into the Spanish sunset."

The hard-hitting response was left to his lawyer, Lawrence, who accused the TCCB of initially

issuing "wholly misleading statements" and of putting England's chairman of selectors through a trial that "should never have taken place". Lawrence said that Illingworth had never been given "a single word of support" by Board officials.

All that the Illingworth camp had to concede to a five-man Cricket Council appeals panel chaired by Judge Desmond Perrett, QC, was that he had allowed newspaper articles criticising Malcolm to appear without the Board's consent.

Lawrence said: "Ray should have insisted on a proper hearing in the first place. There should have been proper evidence from the TCCB and cross-examination of witnesses. Today we had, in effect, a re-hearing and it was a very fair one and perfectly conducted."

Lawrence said that the fundamental plank of Illingworth's appeal was that he had been treated very differently to Malcolm, who had not been disciplined by the TCCB, despite breaching his tour contract with

a newspaper attack on Illingworth's treatment of him in South Africa.

Malcolm had originally accused Illingworth of racially abusing him, a charge that was later withdrawn. But the damage had been done and Illingworth insisted on a right of reply through a TCCB statement. That did not happen and, in the end, Illingworth decided to go into print on the affair in his book *One-Man Committee* which was serialised in a national newspaper in late May.

Lawrence said: "Ray wanted to make peace with Devon Malcolm and offered to meet him on his return from the World Cup. But he was told by the TCCB that it would be sub-judice to their disciplinary hearing with him. That is absolutely untrue. Derbyshire also wanted to hear the other side of the story after Malcolm's article, but they were not allowed to at the instigation of the TCCB. But why should Ray have been treated any differently to Malcolm? They ad-

mitted he was in breach of his contract, but the discipline committee seemed to be frightened to deal with Malcolm. It was racism in reverse because you can't treat one man differently to another."

Then, on April 26, a statement on Malcolm's treatment was issued by the Lord's press office which the appeal chairman has agreed was wholly misleading. The Board's statement indicated to the public that he had agreed with everything that had been said, and that was

not true. After that, Ray received some terrible letters accusing him of being a racist."

Lawrence also attacked the TCCB's constitution, saying: "They should spend a bit of time rewriting their rules. They are very poor, and are not good law. In certain respects they breach EEC law."

The TCCB's spokesman, Richard Little, said: "We certainly do not make any discrimination because of creed or colour. You always get one person's view against another in law."

## Derbyshire's destiny in own hands

DEREK HODGSON

reports from Taunton Derbyshire 389-7 v Somerset

The chocolate, amber and light blue flag of Derbyshire was flaunted in a pleasant breeze here as the county's cricketers moved towards their second Championship. This is their last real hurdle and success would leave them with two home matches, against a debilitated Warwickshire and Durham.

The penman's destination lies in their own hands. A gap of 60 years makes comparison difficult but it is a fair assumption that this side is superior to the heroes of 1936. True, they do not have an England leg-spinner (Tommy Mitchell), but they do have three current, or almost so, Test seammers and, in Kim Barnett and Dean Jones, two of the fastest scorers in contemporary cricket.

Just as vital, when it comes to Championships, is support. Andrew Harris, capped yesterday, and Kevin Dean are a promising pair of seamers and the Peakies are also pleased with their new left-arm spinner Glen Roberts, from Yorkshire, who is making his Championship debut.

Jones, preferring to bat, watched with interest as the ball occasionally lifted suddenly at the River End. As the Old Pavilion End is expected to run, Somerset, for whom this is a vital week with contracts being discussed, will have to play well to survive. Derbyshire started like an express

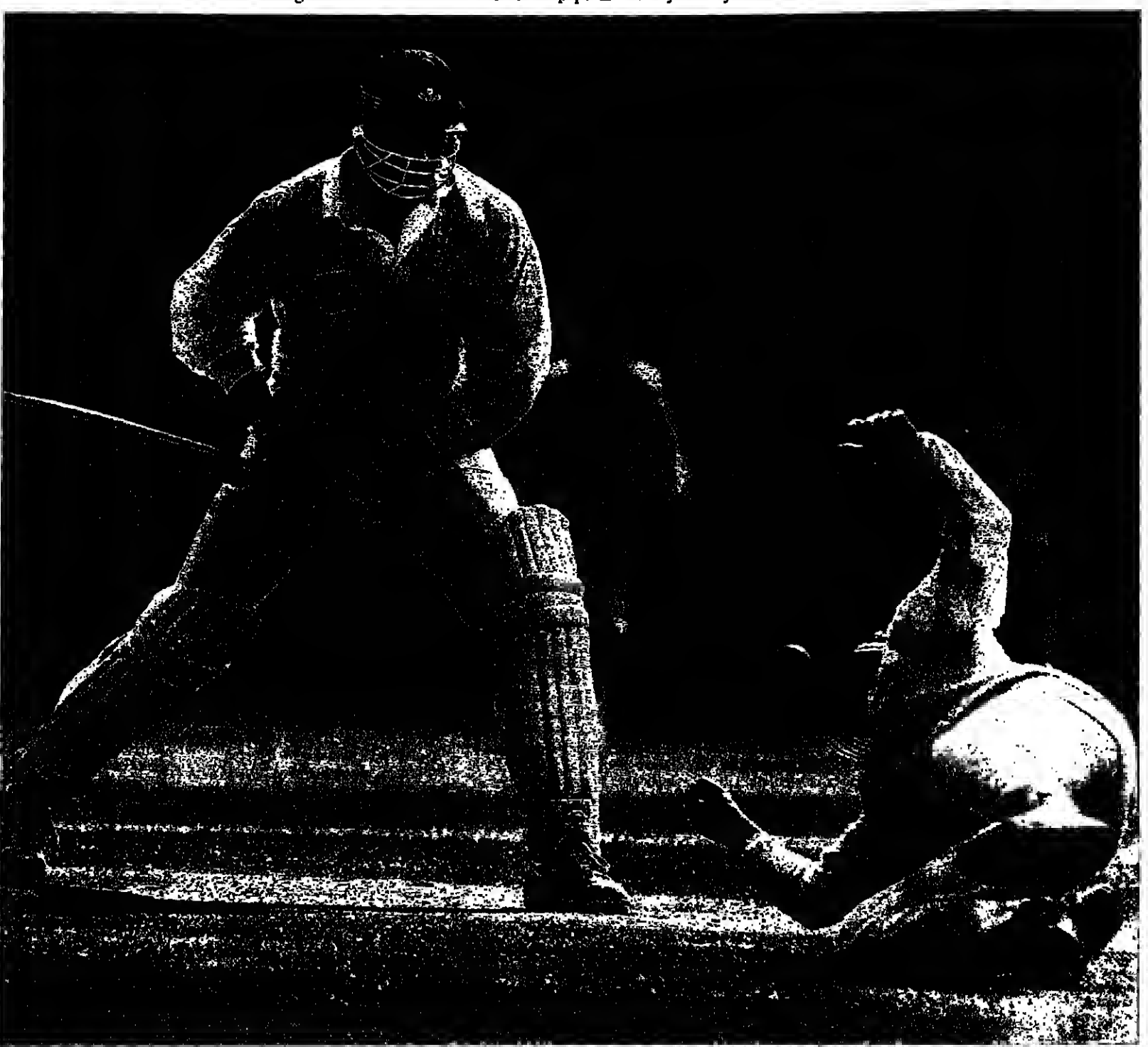
and accelerated, Kim Barnett flicking Andre van Troost off his legs, almost contemptuously, for two boundaries in the first over.

Runs came at five an over until Barnett, perhaps not fully believing Van Troost had bowled another long hop, turned it into square leg's hands. Jones was starting to step up the rate again when Van Troost, changing ends, hit the spot. But if Jones had gone, so had Van Troost, struck down again by a groin strain.

Jeremy Batty bowled four maidens up to lunch and the afternoon after the initial spurt from Adrian Rollins and Dominic Cork became increasingly dozy in growing sunshine.

Their stand was worth 135 when Rollins was caught behind off Shane Lee. He had already completed his third first-class century at 103 when he pulled Lee to Batty at square leg. But as Rollins turned to trudge off, Batty signalled he had dropped the catch, an admission that would have been greatly applauded in his finishing school, the Bradford League.

Cork bristled for a spell, exchanged glances with Andrew Caddick and Lee, lifted Batty out of the ground and looked distinctly displeased when given out caught behind, his 77 off 161 balls. Whatever punishment Batty had escaped earlier he received in full as Phillip DeFreitas swung him for two sixes in an over. DeFreitas supplied the after-burner, and four points were in the bag when he left further demolition to the tail.



Surrey's Brendon Julian, who went on to make 117, is dropped by Richard Montgomerie at silly point yesterday.

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Hard men rescue Surrey

DAVID LLEWELYN

reports from The Oval Surrey 378-9 v Northamptonshire

When the going gets tough for Surrey, the toughs get going. In this case the Australian hard outs, Adam Hollis (he was born in Melbourne but had lived in England long enough to make an impressive international debut for his adopted country at the weekend against Pakistan) and Brendon Julian.

Until they came together and fashioned an exhilarating and record-breaking - against Northamptonshire - seventh-wicket partnership of 181 Surrey's dreams of contesting the County Championship had looked in pieces.

Gone was Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe had departed as had Nadeem Shahid, Chris Lewis and the opening pair of Darren Bicknell and Mark Butcher. But Hollis and Julian went on the attack, raising the tempo. When, after lunch and even before Julian joined him, Hollis hoisted Curtly Ambrose for the first of two sixes off the feared West Indies fast bowler a frisson of anticipation shuddered the crowd.

They were not disappointed either. Ambrose's next over was his last for a while as Hollis, nicknamed Smokey, flared into brilliance and thumped the bowler for 19 runs - three fours in that and his second six. Julian quickly joined in the spirit of the thing and the pair had a party gleefully driving and pulling at will.

Their partnership cruised into three figures in just 22 overs. Tea could distract either man. Hollis reached his fifth first class hundred of the summer and the 10th of his career in 115 balls, having hit 11 other boundaries in addition to the two sixes.

If he went into his shell after that it did not matter. Julian took up the reins and lashed his way towards a hundred. Hollis's fall, bowled by the persevering Tony Penberthy, evinced a groan of disappointment from the crowd, but by then he had handed Surrey three batting bonus points they had not looked like getting.

Shortly after Hollis's departure Julian pushed a single off Penberthy and saluted the crowd's acknowledgement of the second century for Surrey and of his career, it ensured the vital fourth batting bonus point.

As with Hollis, Julian's enjoyable display of batsmanship had occupied less than three hours, but it had helped transform the innings. He hit a six and 14 fours on his way to the mark, falling in the penultimate over of the day for a fine 117.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD			
<b>Derbyshire v Somerset</b>			
Derbyshire	389	7	Wicket
Somerset	100	10	Wicket
<b>Surrey v Northamptonshire</b>			
Surrey	378	9	Wicket
Northamptonshire	100	10	Wicket

## Umpires report Lancashire pitch

ROUND-UP

Lancashire have had their pitch reported to the Test and County Cricket Board after 17 wickets fell on the first day of their match against Middlesex.

The umpires, John Holder and George Sharp, declared the Old Trafford strip "poor" after Middlesex were bowled out for 160. Harry Brind, the TCCB's chief inspector of pitches, will investigate this morning.

The wicket was reported two years ago, when Lancashire beat Middlesex after 21 wickets fell before lunch on the second day. Mike Watkinson took his season's best figures of 5 for 15 for Lancashire. At first, Lancashire had no trouble with the pitch as they eased to 125 for 2 in reply. But Phil Tufnell took two wickets in two balls and finished with 4 for 42 as Lancashire slipped to 175 for 7.

## Noon takes hold of the ship

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Trent Bridge Nottinghamshire 320-9 v Leicestershire

After the early dismissal of Paul Pollard - playing in place of Ashley Metcalfe who, like Chris Cairns, was unfit - Tim Robinson and Graeme Archer threatened a big stand before they were out to successive balls from Phil Simmons with the score 60 for 4. Archer square cut and skied to cover, and Robinson was caught behind trying to run the ball down to third man.

Paul Johnson and Mathew Downman then took root before both were out at 111, within the space of three balls. Johnson was run out, apparently not sensing the danger when Downman called him for a sharp single to cover. Downman then played back to Matthew Brinson and gave the gentlest of catches to midwicket, the ball seeming to hold up on pitching.

Then followed the best stand of the innings, with Chris Tolley and Kevin Evans putting on 117

in 36 overs. Both played some good strokes against bowling which did not always keep to the strictest standards of length and line. Leicestershire missed Alan Mullally, who has hurt a knee, although one hears whisperings of contractual problems.

James Whitaker was surprisingly slow in turning to Adrian Pierson's off-breaks. He came on at 202 for 5 to bowl the 73rd over, and in his third, on the point of tea, Tolley pushed forward and the ball rolled back on to his off-stump. Immediately after the interval, Evans played half-forward to Pierson and was lbw.

It was then the turn of Wayne Noon and Richard Bates, who combined to put on 56 in 15 overs before Bates, driving at Pierson, was caught at slip by Simmons. But Noon stayed at the crease to take Nottinghamshire past 300.

After the early dismissal of Paul Pollard - playing in place of Ashley Metcalfe who, like Chris Cairns, was unfit - Tim Robinson and Graeme Archer threatened a big stand before they were out to successive balls from Phil Simmons with the score 60 for 4. Archer square cut and skied to cover, and Robinson was caught behind trying to run the ball down to third man.

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## Essex find warmth in the evening sun

MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Edgbaston Essex 238 Warwickshire 14-3

The critical, survival factor sustained Essex throughout many a long summer in the 1980s, by far the most successful era during their history. A decade on, they remain in the championship hunt through sheer dogged perseverance.

After opting to bat, despite the dampness of an early start, Essex plummeted to 87 for 5.

They rallied through the combined labours of Ronnie Irani and Mark Ilett to poach an improbable batting point. Otherwise, Essex would have been ousted before tea on a pitch assisting seam bowlers operating from the City end. Eight wickets fell through that combination, with swing and irregular bounce suggesting the match will not go the full distance.

Before their defeat by Yorkshire the previous day, Essex had climbed from ninth to joint top with five consecutive wins, only to slip suddenly to fifth in a tight table. Presumably, their

bat-first tactics in this game are geared in avoiding being on the sharp end in the last innings.

They were cheered by help being available for the bowlers throughout the day. When Ilett's first three balls of Warwickshire's innings defeated Nick Knight, Warwickshire's toil was just beginning. Knight shuffled across his stumps to Neil Williams and was leg-before. Andy Moles was dropped at cover, cutting in Williams' next over and caught at the wicket in his fourth.

Ashley Giles, the intended nightwatchman, was plumb leg-

before first ball to a devastating inswinger from Ilett and at 11-3, Essex were in control. Warwickshire's afflictions included carache, such as the capophony of confident appealing.

Tim Manton, their captain, had illustrated what a considerable chap he is by bowling 21 overs unchanged, 10 of them maidens, for 33 runs from the unhelpful Pavilion end and while he heaved away, Gladstone Small and Dougie Brown helped themselves to five wickets.

Until Irani adopted a bold approach with 69, including 10 fours and a six, from 73 balls,

no one came to terms with the vagaries of the pitch. Even Graham Gooch succumbed to a rising ball leaving the bat from Small, whose 4 for 41 confirmed his recovery from assorted injury problems.

Robert Rollins and Ilett backed Irani down the order and a potentially bleak day grew brighter with symbolic evening sunshine for Essex. After taking maximum bonus points in each of their previous four matches, a down-market return was barely surprising on this surface, but they had victory, a longer-term prize, firmly in mind.

## Boon chosen to lead Durham out of their slump

Durham yesterday announced they had signed the former Australian Test batsman David Boon as their captain for next season.

Boon, 35, who is captain of Tasmania, has signed a two-year contract after Geoff Cook, Durham's director of cricket, flew to Australia to clinch the deal.

Boon retired from Test cricket last year after scoring 7,422 runs, including 21 centuries, in 107 Tests at an average of 43. He will take over as captain from Mike Roseberry, who resigned last Saturday. Durham are bottom of both the County Championship and the Sunday League.

Boon, unlike the other candidates Durham considered, such as the Indian captain, Sachin Tendulkar, will be available for the full season. He will replace the West Indian Sherwin Campbell as the county's overseas player.

Lancashire's Nick Speak has been told there is no first-team

future for him at Old Trafford. The 29-year-old batsman still has a year left of his contract and will make a decision about his future at the end of the season.

Speak, who made his debut in 1987, has failed to secure a regular one-day place this season but has missed only four Championship matches. He has scored

more than 7,000 first-class career runs at an average of 39.

Fears that the Sussex left-arm pacerman Jason Lewry had suffered a stress fracture of the back have been dispelled and he hopes to return to action against Essex next week. Lewry received the all-clear after a series of scans.



## 18 6 football

# Redknapp broadens East End horizons

When Harry Redknapp had wings and the right touchline at Upton Park was his preserve, the ability to speak a foreign language was not high on the list of priorities for a West Ham player. In those days, talk of an arrival from overseas usually meant the club had crossed the river to make a signing in south London.

Now you have to be a pretty good Englishman to win a place among the exotic names that have given lustre to the transfer activity with which Redknapp, the winger-turned-manager, has kept the East End club prominent in the marketplace over the last 12 months.

Be a Hammers fan and see the world - Bilic, Rieper, Futre, Raducioiu, Dumitrescu and all the rest.

Along with Europe's borders, traditional xenophobic prejudice has been demolished throughout football, and Upton Park, where Alf Garnet once belted out his bigotry, has become an unlikely home for many of the Continent's leading performers. Assuming all are fit, Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one player eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money.

Sometimes the negotiations for a foreign signing are far easier than when another English club is involved. One such example was the free transfer capture of Paulo Futre, possibly the biggest coup of this summer's hectic whaler-dealing.

As with so many transfers, home or abroad, it is an agent that starts the ball rolling. Mr Fixits, faxes and telephone calls are an unavoidable part of everyday life at a football club and Redknapp admits most of the names end up in the bin.

There is a way of cutting out

Ten years ago, West Ham players came from Barking. Trevor Haylett looks at how parochialism has been turned on its head at Upton Park

the rapacious middleman, however, assuming managers have access to a computer and the know-how to link into the Internet. A Website, *Calcio Mercato* (Football Market) has been created by enthusiasts in Italy and supplies details of players seeking new clubs and clubs seeking new players.

When, towards the end of last season, another middleman telephoned the West Ham training ground with details of Futre and his likely availability, Redknapp knew this was not

speaking to Jim Smith [the Derby manager] and it was suggested that as he was flying into London, I could meet up with him at Heathrow.

Redknapp was not to know it at the time, but the suggestion was crucial to the transfer. London was a big selling point, so was the fact that West Ham were the first to speak with him.

Futre warmed to Redknapp's honesty and good humour and from there it was plain sailing. "You have to feel right about a player, even one on a free

times last season and would have signed him, but his wife didn't want to go to Scotland. He was a player I'd seen many times on the television and I thought he could do well for us. After watching him score for Romania against Spain in the European Championships, I decided to go for him."

Where Futre and Raducioiu sold themselves through their reputations, Slaven Bilic was an unknown commodity. "An agent mentioned he had a player in Germany who had just been voted their best centre-half and who wanted to come over to England."

"He offered me videos of the player, but I said I needed to see him first-hand and suggested he trained with us during his mid-season break. He was here for three weeks, but it was obvious after his first training session that he would be a valuable asset."

Accommodating the imports into both club and team is not as difficult as might be imagined. It's not always the case - witness the failed gamble on Dutchman Marco Boogers - but, in the main, West Ham have acquired players of substance as well as skill; intelligent individuals who have warmed to their new environment and worked hard to fit in.

"There is no problem with the other players, they can see that the new fellows are good players and that makes them accepted immediately. Nor is the language a problem. Apart from Futre, they all speak English already and he is studying every night to do the same."

"They are all good lads and willingly join in all the different things we do to raise money for charity. It's funny to see Futre on the coach because he takes over the whole show. He's also a bit of a magician off the field and keeps the others amused with a whole repertoire of tricks."

Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one player eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money

a name he could afford to consign to the wastebasket.

This was a player of high quality, a Portuguese international with service at a host of top clubs, including Real Madrid and Milan, and he could be a valuable acquisition.

"I told the agent at that time that I would be interested if he could prove his fitness," Redknapp said. "He had been out nearly all last season with a serious knee injury. In the event, Paulo himself suggested a clause in the contract giving the club a way out if he was to break down again."

"The agent told me other clubs were interested - in Japan and Italy - while, in this country, Derby were chasing him hard. He was coming over to

transfer. With Futre, I liked him from the start. He had something about him and I could see why he captained his club at 20 and went on to captain his country. We more or less agreed a deal there and then and later that night he phoned to say he would be signing."

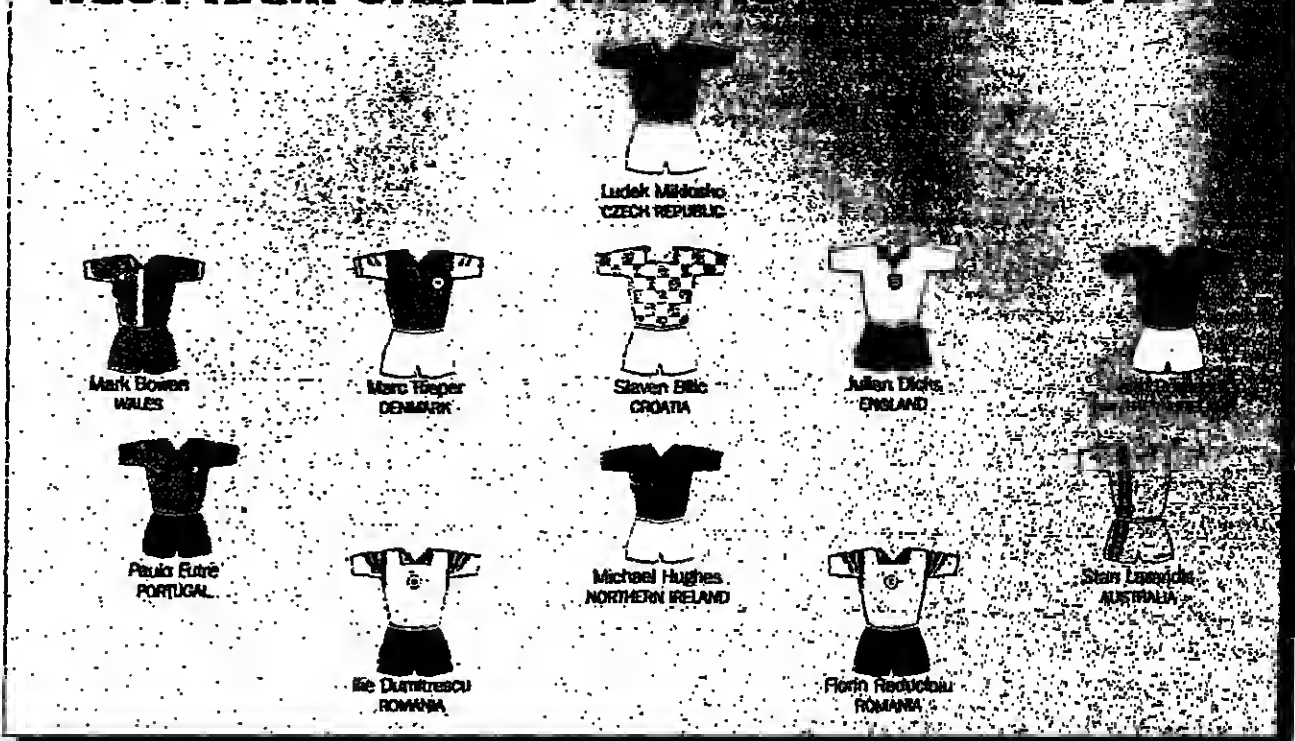
Redknapp considers himself fortunate that the club's directors give him a free hand in the transfer market while retaining the final say regarding finance. They have not been big spenders in the past; the deal that took the Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu from Espanol for £2.4m was easily the most they have paid for a player.

"I know Glasgow Rangers had watched him four or five



The international class: (left to right) West Ham's Mark Bowen (Wales), Jan Dowle (Northern Ireland), Slaven Bilic (Croatia), Michael Hughes (Northern Ireland), Stan Lazaridis (Australia), and Paulo Futre (Portugal). Photograph: Adam Scott

## WEST HAM: UNITED NATIONS OF EAST LONDON



# From Philippe Albert to Tony Yeboah: A complete guide to the

## Arsenal

**DENNIS BERGKAMP**  
Striker  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Internazionale (£7.5m) July 1995  
Scored 16 goals in his first season at Highbury, but also created many more and was the key figure in leading the club into this season's UEFA Cup. Has been unsettled by the sacking of Bruce Rioch, but Arsenal will need him at his best if they are to push for honours this season.

**BERNARD GARDIE**  
Defender  
Nationality: French  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Strasbourg (free) August 1995  
A little-known former French international who is yet to make his Arsenal debut because of injury. He has a reputation as an adaptable player, who is equally comfortable in defence and midfield. A team-mate at Strasbourg of Chelsea's central defender Frank Leboeuf.

**GLENN HOLLDER**  
Winger  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Vitesse Arnhem (£2m) February 1995  
A skilful winger who has struggled to produce his best form in the Premiership. Disappointed last season, making only 15 appearances, scoring just one goal, his first for the club.

**PATRICK VIEIRA**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: French  
Age: 22  
Arrived from: Milan (£3.5m) August 1995  
Recommended to Arsenal by their prospective new manager Arsene Wenger, Vieira is still in Italy receiving treatment on a knee injury. Billed as an attacking, creative midfielder.

## Aston Villa

**MARK BOSNICH**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Australian  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Sydney Croatia to Manchester United (free) February 1992. Played a handful of games and then returned to Sydney Croatia, before buying out his contract to join Villa.  
The Australian has established himself as one of the Premiership's best goalkeepers. Was a key factor in helping Villa claim a European spot this season.

**SASA CURCIC**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Yugoslavian  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Partizan Belgrade to Bolton (£4m) August 1996. Moved to Villa for £4m last month. Showed last season his array of skills and ability to take on players and score spectacular goals. Already showing why his manager Brian Little invested so much for his services.

## Blackburn Rovers

**SAVO MILOSEVIC**  
Striker  
Nationality: Yugoslavian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Partizan Belgrade (£3.5m) August 1995  
Had a disappointing start to his first season in England, scoring only 12 league goals. The Serb striker is capable of better.

**FERNANDO NELSON**  
Defender  
Nationality: Portuguese  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Sporting Lisbon (£1.75m) August 1996  
Villa signed him ahead of Tottenham and he has a tremendous reputation, but yet to grab his share of attention.

**DWIGHT YORKE**  
Striker  
Nationality: Trinidad and Tobago  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Signal Hill (£120,000) December 1989  
Voted player of the year for last season after scoring 28 goals and is regarded as one of the top strikers in Britain. Great close control and can run at players with pace.

**HEINNING BERG**  
Defender  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Lillestrom (£400,000) January 1993  
A reliable defender, who played a prominent role in helping Rovers clinch the Premiership title two years ago. Berg is a tough tackling player who has made the right back position his own.

**LARS BOHINEN**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 29  
Arrived from: Young Boys to Nottingham Forest (£450,000) November 1993. Transferred to Blackburn for £1.5m last October. An attacking midfielder player who loves to get into goal-scoring opportunities. Has still to find the form that made him such a great player at Forest.

**YORGOS DONIS**  
Winger  
Nationality: Greek  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Panathinaikos (free) July 1995  
Regarded as one of the fastest players in the world. Has the ability to beat full-backs with his pace and deliver quality crosses, but still has a lot to prove over here.

**NIKLAS GUDMUNDSSON**  
Striker  
Nationality: Swedish  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Halmstad (£1m) January 1996  
Still to make an impact on the Premiership after starting only one league match last season.

## The five best value imports to English football



**Osvaldo Ardiles**  
When Keith Burkinshaw, the Spurs manager, flew to Argentina shortly after the 1978 World Cup to sign Osvaldo Ardiles, he could scarcely have imagined that he would be persuaded by the diminutive midfielder to bring back Ricky Villa as well. After an indifferent start, the pair shone during a golden era at White Hart Lane. In a career that spanned 10 years at the club, Ardiles guided Spurs to domestic and European honours. His attacking instincts proved ill-suited to management, but even a flawed stint as coach in 1993-94 did little to damage the high regard in which he is still held by Tottenham fans.



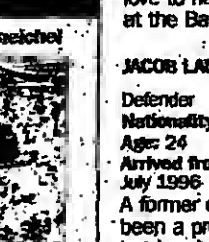
**Eric Cantona**  
Sheffield Wednesday supporters must still rue the day that Trevor Francis failed to recognise the mercurial talents of the French bête noire during his trial at Hillsborough, in the same way that Leeds fans find it hard to forgive Howard Wilkinson after he saw fit to sell the flawed genius, under a cloud of controversy, for a bargain basement £1.2m, to their arch-rivals Manchester United. Cantona's acquisition, particularly now that he sports the captain's armband like a proud peacock and has gathered the next generation of United stars under his wing, was roughly akin to uncovering a Van Gogh masterpiece at a car-boot sale.



**Rudi Gullit**  
Somehow, Ken Bates and Glenn Hoddle pulled off the coup to end all coups. After signing Gullit on a free transfer, they sat back and admired as the Dutchman played an almost virtuoso role in the renaissance of the west London side in his first season, soon advancing from his role as sweeper when it became clear that despite his ageing limbs he still had the guile and technique to flourish in midfield. With Hoddle gone, Gullit became even better value for money, as he stepped into the manager's shoes and began attracting the type of players and playing a style of football that Chelsea fans have dreamt of for over 20 years.



**Jürgen Klinsmann**  
The final feud between the Spurs chairman Alan Sugar and Jürgen Klinsmann tainted the Tottenham fairy tale. When Spurs fans were reeling after the Venables debacle and the loss of Gazza and Lineker, along came the swan-diving German to brighten up their lives. With a great deal of panache, Sugar had moored his yacht in Monte Carlo and shrewdly closed the deal that once again made Spurs the style guru of the top flight. In a single season, Klinsmann forced his critics to radically alter their preconceptions and became the personification of skill and professionalism for pundits and fans alike.



**Peter Schmeichel**  
The irony must be enough to reduce Kevin Keegan to tears. Peter Schmeichel, the most accomplished goalkeeper of his generation, was turned down by Newcastle before being snapped up by Manchester United from Brøndby in 1991. After snatching defeat from the jaws of victory last season, the people of Newcastle must feel that fortune lives about 100 miles south-west of the Tyne. It is no coincidence that Schmeichel's most embarrassing reverses when the aggressive Dane is missing, such as the second half of the 4-1 defeat by Spurs last season, and those by Barcelona and IFK Gothenburg in the European Cup in 1994.

love to hate - an instant hero at the Baseball Ground.

**JACOB LAURSEN**  
Defender  
Nationality: Danish  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Silkeborg (£500,000) July 1996  
A former clerk, who has only been a professional for a year, but is a key member of the Danish international squad. Has been signed for his versatility and should be able to stand up to the rigours of the Premiership.

**IGOR STIMAC**  
Defender  
Nationality: Croatian  
Age: 29  
Arrived from: Hajduk Split (£1.57m) October 1995  
Talented centre-half who helped to bring the Rams into the Premiership with some commanding performances last season. Has become a clear favourite with the fans and will look to make a big impact this season.

**ROBBIE VAN DER LAAN**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Wageningen to Port Vale (£20,000) February 1991. Moved to Derby at the start of last season for £475,000.  
A reliable player in the hard-working English mould, who was virtually ever-present for Derby last season.

**RON WILLEMS**  
Striker  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 29  
Arrived from: Gronenoppers (£500,000) July 1995  
An extremely experienced striker who scored 11 league goals in his first season at Derby. Will have to step up a gear to score so regularly in the Premiership.

**MARC HOTTIGER**  
Defender  
Nationality: Swiss  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: St. Gallen to Newcastle (£500,000) August 1994.  
Transferred to Everton for £750,000 in March.  
Attacking full-back who enjoys pushing into forward positions. Has just returned from playing for Switzerland at Euro 96, and should build on his success at Newcastle.

**ANDREI KANCHELSKIS**  
Striker  
Nationality: Ukrainian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Shekhter Donetsk to Manchester United (£650,000) March 1991. Moved to Everton for £4.5m in August 1995.  
Extremely talented winger who has the pace and skill to take on and beat defenders. Outstanding at Old Trafford and Everton's top scorer last season with 16 goals.

**JASON KEARTON**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Australian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Brisbane Lions (free) October 1993. Has spent time on loan at Stoke, Blackpool and Notts County.  
Looks to be on his way out of Goodison Park after the arrival of Paul Gerrard from Oldham. Understudy to Neville Southall for most of last season.

**ANDERS LINPAR**  
Winger  
Nationality: Swedish  
Age: 31  
Arrived from: Cronenese to Arsenal (£3m) August 1990. Switched to Everton three and a half years later for £1.6m.  
Another talented player who, on his day, can win a match for his side. But there is too much inconsistency in his game and he cannot command a regular first-team place.

**TOMAS BRODIN**  
Striker  
Nationality: Swedish  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Parma (£4.3m) November 1995  
An unhappy time at Leeds for the Swedish striker looks like ending with a move to FC Zurich of Switzerland, whom he has joined on loan.  
With a view to a permanent transfer. Never settled into the side and clearly Howard Wilkinson's most expensive mistake.

**LUCAS RADEBE**  
Defender  
Nationality: South Africa  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Kaizer Chiefs (£250,000) September 1994.  
Well liked by the supporters, but prone to inconsistency. Survived to begin a third season in England while his South African team-mate Phil Masinga left during the summer.

**TONY YEBOAH**  
Striker  
Nationality: Ghanaian  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Eintracht Frankfurt (£3.4m) January 1995  
At present injured, Yeboah showed last season that he can score breathtaking goals. Hit the net 19 times last season and could make a formidable partnership with Ian Rush.

**PONTUS KAMARK**  
Defender  
Nationality: Swedish  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: IFK Gothenburg (£340,000) July 1995  
Swedish titles and success in the European Champions' League. Suffered a serious knee injury in only his second match for the Foxes but is now well on the road to recovery.

## Chelsea

**ROBERTO DI MATTEO**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Italian  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Lazio (£4.5m) June 1996  
Skilful midfielder player who has the experience of playing in the top league. Has the potential to be a star player in the Premiership this season.

**RUDI GULLIT**  
Libero  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 34  
Arrived from: Sampdoria (free) July 1995  
Still regarded as a world-class player and an unlikely success for Chelsea, but out injured following a knee operation. Has now to prove himself as a manager.

**ERLAND JOHANSEN**  
Defender  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 29  
Arrived from: Bayern Munich (£300,000) December 1989  
Stoical centre-half who struggled to command a regular first-team place last season, but who is always reliable.

**DIMITRI KHARIN**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Russian  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: CSKA Moscow

## Coventry City

**JOHN FILAN**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Australian  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Sydney Bluejays to Cambridge (£40,000) March 1993.  
Moved on to Coventry two years later for £350,000.  
A goalkeeper still to make the breakthrough at Highfield Road. Acting as an understudy to Steve Ogilvie.

**RENE GENAUX**  
Wing-back  
Nationality: Belgian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Standard Liège (£1m) August 1995  
A skilful wing-back who has already been capped 23 times by Belgium. He has yet to make

gives Chelsea an extra attacking option with his pace on the wing.

**GIANNI VIALI**  
Striker  
Nationality: Italian  
Age: 32  
Arrived from: Juventus (free) June 1996  
One of the world's top strikers. He has played at the highest level and has scored goals on both the domestic and international scene. Was left out of the Italian squad for Euro 96, but is already showing star quality for Chelsea.

**PETER NDOLOVU**  
Striker  
Nationality: Zimbabwean  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Highlands (free) August 1991  
Talented player who, on his day, can score any defence in the world. Has the ability to score some magnificent goals and loves to run at players, but needs to improve on his six goals last season.

**ALIJOSA ASANOVIC**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Croatian  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Hajduk Split (£1m) July 1995  
A tough tackling midfielder, who has already become a player that opposition players and fans

an impact with his new club, after attracting the interest of Arsenal, Tottenham and the Italian club Udinese.

**ISLAS**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Age: 32  
Arrived from: Benfica (£500,000) July 1995  
A strong and creative playmaker who loves to score goals. Has not shown the form that made him top goalscorer for five successive seasons in Portugal.

**DERBY COUNTY**  
Arrived from: Sheffield Wednesday (£1.25m) August 1994. Switched to Chelsea for double that fee last October.  
Attacking wing-back who has fitted well into Chelsea's back-line. Normally employed in a five-man defence, Petrescu



# Foreign body blocking English lifeblood

Erland Johnsen believes the influx of European players is ruining the national game - and he should know. Clive White spoke to him

"All these foreigners coming into the Premiership, it cannot be good for the future of the national team however much the clubs and spectators may benefit from their presence."

No, that's not Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, talking about the threat to his members' livelihood, nor a disgruntled, displaced Premiership footballer. It's Erland Johnsen, the Norwegian representative at the "League of Nations" along the Fulham Road.

A touch hypocritical it might be, but you have to admire Johnsen for his honesty. If he had lost his first-team place at Chelsea to one of the new imports, his point of view would have been entirely understandable. After all, having been here for nearly seven years he is entitled to think of himself as one of us. But Johnsen is first choice at centre-back and the chief threat to his continued selection comes from an Englishman, Michael Duberry.

Johnsen has even had the temerity to voice his reservations about the English game's foreign policy back home in Norway and been criticised for it. "It's difficult for me," he said. "People think I should keep quiet and hope that more of my countrymen can come over to earn a living. It's good for the fans because they can watch some really good players and the clubs will have a better chance of doing well in Europe, but it just makes it even more difficult for young home-grown talent to come through."

"They end up, in some cases, having to move down two divisions because there are foreigners in the First Division now. On the other hand, they can learn technique from the foreigners and how to play the European way, but in the long term I don't think it's good. We'll see in about 10 years time if I'm right."

The prospect of a Norwegian playing football for a top professional English club was once about as likely as an Englishman winning Olympic gold at Nordic skiing. Then Norway beat England 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Oslo in 1981, inspiring a memorable piece of dispassionate reporting from one Bjørge Lillelien, a Norwegian commentator. "Are you listening, Maggie Thatcher - your boys took a hell of a beating here tonight," he blurted, beside himself with joy.

English managers began to take notice, although it was still a few years before Erik Thorstvedt joined Tottenham and was asked by the tabloids to don one of those ridiculous Viking helmets for photo purposes. "It was a big thing at the time, that victory," Johnsen recalls. "Norwegian players would take their autograph books with them when they played England and the most important thing was to swap shirts after the game. Things have changed a bit since then."

It was only with the arrival of Thorstvedt and Johnsen that English clubs woke up to the fact that Scandinavians represented excellent value for money at a time when their own transfer market was spiralling out of control. A well-known Norwegian agent arranged Johnsen's move to Chelsea for £300,000 (although it might just as easily have been to Queen's Park Rangers) when other English clubs were asking at least twice that for players of similar ability. "Most Scandinavians you've had seem to settle in OK," he said. "We had the language and the way of living is much the same."

However, his career at Chelsea hasn't always been a happy one. Under Ian Porterfield, he was ready to pack his bags and return to Norway after playing just 14 first-team games in the space of two years. "Being in the reserves for so long I wasn't motivated to go anywhere else," he said. "I don't think clubs over here would have wanted me, not in the Premiership. It's harder for a foreign-

er to stay happy in the reserves because you're away from home, you haven't got your family and friends, although you make new ones. I was ready to swap it all for a free transfer back to Norway."

The appearance of David Webb - albeit briefly - at Stamford Bridge, however, rekindled his career and under Glenn Hoddle and now Ruud Geulit he has become almost a regular fixture in the side. Not so the Norwegian national team, in which



Capturing the youth vote: Erland Johnsen cuts a popular figure at Chelsea's training ground yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

young Johnsen thought he should have been first choice, and despite keeping the emerging Kohler out of the team for a while, he eventually lost his place and asked for a move. Partly because of the ferocity of the competition, Johnsen didn't find the atmosphere as friendly as it is at Chelsea. "The style in Germany didn't suit me as well as it does here, I prefer a more physical game. They played man-to-man marking which I didn't particularly care for. The

Norwegian game is more similar to the English, although it's changed here since I came. Most teams here try to play more football now."

While playing in England always held a fascination for him (his bedroom walls as a boy were plastered with Manchester United posters), money, he admits, was the major attraction. Back in Norway he earned £5,000 the year Moss won the league title and had to supplement his earnings by working as a bank clerk.

Although fearful of the long-term effect England's infatuation with foreigners might have upon its international aspirations, Johnsen has no sympathy for the clubs. "It's of their own choosing," he said. "Of course you can have English players going in the opposite direction, but when you go abroad you have to make sacrifices. If the Englishman doesn't have his steak and kidney pie, he's struggling. But then I suppose you've got everything here now - even the money."

## comings and goings of the Premiership's 84 overseas players

**ZELKO KALAC**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Australian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Sydney United (£760,000) August 1995  
Has had a disappointing spell at Leicester, making only one league appearance for them and has recently been linked with a move to join his former boss Mark McGhee at Wolves.

**KASEY KELLER**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: American  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Portland University to Millwall (free) February 1992.  
Switched to Leicester for £900,000 last month.  
Showed at Millwall why he is rated so highly with some outstanding performances. He is the US first choice goalkeeper, and could be a big Premiership success if City survive.

**FRANCK ROLLING**  
Defender  
Nationality: French  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: FC Pau (£100,000) October 1995.  
A tough tackling defender who has already made a name for himself at Fulham, making 17 league appearances last season.

**PATRICK BERGER**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Czech  
Age: 22  
Arrived from: Borussia Dortmund (£3.5m) August 1995.  
Excellent midfielder who starred for the Czech Republic in the European Championships. Still awaiting his Arsenal debut.

**STIG INGE BJØRNHØVE**  
Defender  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: Rosenborg Trondheim (£600,000) December 1992.  
Has held down a regular first-team place so far this season and is clearly well thought of by his manager Roy Evans.

**ERIC CANTONA**  
Striker  
Nationality: French  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Nîmes to Leeds (£900,000) February 1992 after a trial with Sheffield Wednesday.  
Joined Manchester United for £1.2m nine months later.  
Won his third Championship medal last season after guiding United to a unique double. Scored 19 goals, including a spectacular winner against Liverpool in the FA Cup final.

**JORDI CRUYFF**  
Striker  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 22  
Arrived from: Barcelona (£1m) July 1995.  
An instant hit at Old Trafford, and clearly one to watch as the season progresses.

**RONNY JOHNSEN**  
Defender  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Besiktas (£1.5m) July 1996.  
Not the biggest name at United, but has already shown enough composure to prove he will be an important part of Alex Ferguson's squad.

**KAREL POBORECKÝ**  
Winger  
Nationality: Czech  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Slavia Prague (£3.5m) July 1996.  
Scored a wonder goal in Euro 96 and is a signing of great promise. Will, however, have to score more regularly to earn a permanent starting place.

**OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJÆR**  
Striker  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Molde (£1.5m) July 1996.  
He looks 12, but plays with the assurance of a seasoned professional and has the temperament to become another successful import.

**PETER SCHMEICHEL**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Danish  
Age: 33  
Arrived from: Brøndby (£350,000) August 1991.  
Has established himself as the best goalkeeper in Europe since joining United, where he wants to end his career.

**RAMON VAN DER GOUW**  
Goalkeeper  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Vitesse Arnhem (undisclosed) July 1996.  
An experienced goalkeeper, signed as cover for Schmeichel.

**BRANCO**  
Defender  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Internacional (Bra) (free) February 1996.  
Clearly past his best, but still a good passer and a key influence on his Brazilian team-mates.

**EMERSON**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Age: 24  
Arrived from: Porto (£4m) May 1996.  
Rapidly establishing himself as one of the best midfielders in the Premiership. Strong and full of flair, he should be a big hit.

**JAN AGE EIDERTSEN**  
Striker  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 29  
Arrived from: Rapid Vienna to Swindon (£250,000) July 1993.  
Joined Middlesbrough for £1.3m in March 1995.  
His place at Boro is uncertain, but, after a slow start in England, has proved to be a regular goalscorer.

**FAUSTINO ASPRILLA**  
Striker  
Nationality: Colombian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Parma (£7.5m) February 1996.  
Scored a hat-trick for Colombia last weekend, but has largely

### ...and the five worst value



In January 1996, Newcastle boasted a 12-point lead in the Premiership, and the acquisition of "Tino" was supposed to be the final piece in their rebuild, best other interested parties to sign the Dutch striker Marco Boogers for £800,000. Sent off in the first week of the season for a foul on the Manchester United defender Gary Neville, Boogers never looked back. By September, he had disappeared altogether. He was discovered living in a caravan in the Dutch countryside amid rumours that he had suffered a breakdown, and by February he had been loaned out to Groningen after playing just 88 minutes for West Ham.



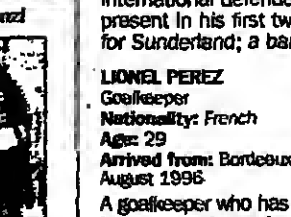
The bizarrest of all the tales of imported woe. Harry Redknapp, forced by West Ham's limited resources to scour the Continent for talent, best other interested parties to sign the Dutch striker Marco Boogers for £800,000. Sent off in the first week of the season for a foul on the Manchester United defender Gary Neville, Boogers never looked back. By September, he had disappeared altogether. He was discovered living in a caravan in the Dutch countryside amid rumours that he had suffered a breakdown, and by February he had been loaned out to Groningen after playing just 88 minutes for West Ham.



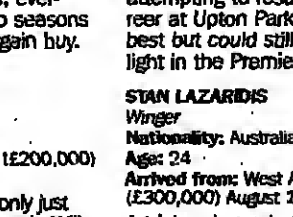
The Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, appeared to be chasing Faustino Asprilla before settling, some would say on the rebound, for the promising Swede with the far cheaper price tag. Broin was unfit on arrival in November 1995, and when he did break into the team he enjoyed the shortest honeymoon period imaginable. By February, the relationship was on a rocky ground, with Broin left out of a game against Aston Villa despite nine Leeds players being unavailable. By the season's end, in true Liz Taylor style, the marriage was over and Broin was looking for a total annulment.



In August 1987, Francisco Ernani Ume De Silva, or Mirandinha, arrived at Newcastle from Palmeiras for £1m amid scenes of North-eastern delight. He was the first Brazilian to arrive on these shores and the Toon Army expected their team would soon be challenging for honours to the sound of the samba beat. Unfortunately, Mirandinha's performances fell short of the hype and, despite boasting a cult status with the fans, he managed just 47 starts and 20 goals in two seasons. He left Newcastle for a loan spell in Brazil after they were relegated in 1989, before being written off by manager, Jim Smith.



Frank Clark, the Nottingham Forest manager, must be a firm believer in quantity over quality. Having sold Stan Collymore for £8.5m, he first signed Kevin Campbell from Arsenal and then brought in the Italian journeyman Andrea Silenzi, from Torino for £1.8m. Silenzi barely got a look-in all season, despite long-term injuries to Campbell and Bryan Roy, with Clark opting for the dubious talents of Jason Lee instead. With the arrival of Dean Saunders, Clark has spent the summer trying in vain to recoup some of the outlay on Silenzi. The moral of this sad tale: Cheap is not necessarily cheerful.



Already a West Ham favourite, attempting to resurrect his career at Upton Park. Past his best but could still be a leading light in the Premiership.

**JUNINHO**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Brazilian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: São Paulo (£4.5m) October 1995.  
The jury is still out on the young Brazilian who, while never looking substantial, has yet to dominate games as expected.

**FAUSTINO ASPRILLA**  
Striker  
Nationality: Italian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Juventus (£7m) July 1996.  
Scored a hat-trick on his debut and although thought to be past his best in Italy, has the potential to become a leading striker in Britain.

**PHILIPPE ALBERT**  
Defender  
Nationality: Belgian  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: Anderlecht (£2.65m) August 1994.  
A centre half who is better coming forward than he is defending but well liked at St James' and regarded as a success.

**ALF INGE HALAND**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Young Boys (Switz) (£250,000) January 1994.  
Norwegian midfielder, who is effective without being outstanding.

**NINOLA JERKAN**  
Defender  
Nationality: Croatian  
Age: 31  
Arrived from: Oviedo (£1m) July 1996.

failed to live up to his billing and transfer fee on Tyneside.

**DAVID GHOLA**  
Winger  
Nationality: French  
Age: 25  
Arrived from: Paris St-Germain (£2.5m) August 1995.  
An outstanding first season has been followed by speculation that he may leave the club soon. A success on the pitch, but has struggled to adjust to life up North.

**ALF INGE HALAND**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Norwegian  
Age: 23  
Arrived from: Young Boys (Switz) (£250,000) January 1994.  
Norwegian midfielder, who is effective without being outstanding.

**NINOLA JERKAN**  
Defender  
Nationality: Croatian  
Age: 31  
Arrived from: Oviedo (£1m) July 1996.

**Nottingham Forest**

Another Euro 96 star for the quarter-finalists. A highly rated right-back who should prove to be a success.

**BRYAN ROY**  
Striker  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Feyenoord (£2.5m) August 1994.  
A class act who sparked alongside Stan Collymore, but has failed to maintain those high standards and can be as frustrating as he can be brilliant.

**ANDREA SILENZI**  
Striker  
Nationality: Italian  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Torino (£1.8m) August 1995.  
Disastrous time in England for this former Italian international, who is set for a cut-price move back to Italy, probably with Verona. Initially hampered by injury, he started only three league games for Forest.

**Sheffield Wednesday**

**REGI BLANKER**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Feyenoord (£1m) February 1996.  
A highly talented player who has made a sensational start to the season, displaying a rare ability to take players on.

**DEAN STEFANOVIĆ**  
Defender  
Nationality: Yugoslavian  
Age: 21  
Arrived from: Red Star Belgrade (£2m) December 1995.  
Made only six appearances last season, but has had a good start this time round and is proving to be a sound buy.

**ORLANDO TRUSTFULL**  
Winger  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: Feyenoord (£750,000) August 1996.  
A winger, signed only two weeks ago, he has made an encouraging start.

**Southampton**

**KEN MONKOU**  
Defender  
Nationality: Dutch  
Age: 31  
Arrived from: Feyenoord to Chelsea (£100,000) February 1996. Moved to Southampton for £750,000 in August 1992.  
Unfortunately not to be called up to the full Dutch squad after impressive spells.

**Sunderland**

**ROMNY ROSENTHAL**  
Striker  
Nationality: Israeli  
Age: 32  
Arrived from: Standard Liège to Liverpool (£1.1m) June 1990. Transferred to Tottenham for £250,000 in January 1994.  
Scores great goals in between average displays. More a super sub than a super striker.

**West Ham**

**SVEN BRILIC**  
Defender  
Nationality: Croatian  
Age: 26  
Arrived from: Karlsruhe (£1.5m) February 1996.  
A real crowd pleaser and has added quality to the Hammers' defence. Outstanding in the air and excellent distribution in Bobby Moore mould.

**Wimbledon**

**EFAN EKOU**  
Striker  
Nationality: Nigerian  
Age: 29  
Transfer record: Sutton United to Bournemouth (£100,000) 1990. Moved from Bournemouth to Norwich for £500,000 in 1993 before switching to Wimbledon for £900,000 in October 1994.  
Strong striker, who dominates in the air but fails to score goals frequently enough.

**MARC RIEPER**  
Defender  
Nationality: Danish  
Age: 28  
Arrived from: Brøndby (£500,000) August 1995.  
After a disappointing Euro 96, the Danish international has regained the club form that made him a resounding success last season.

**LEE DUMITRESCU**  
Midfielder  
Nationality: Romanian  
Age: 27  
Arrived from: Steaua Bucharest to Tottenham (£2.6m) August 1994. Moved to West Ham for £1.5m in March 1996.  
Just overcoming his latest injury setback after a disappointing start to life in England at Tottenham. Undoubtedly possesses skill, but yet to show a genuine appetite for the Premiership.

**PAULO FUTRE**  
Striker  
Nationality: Portuguese  
Age: 30  
Arrived from: Milan (free) July 1996.

**DAVID BATTY**  
Defender  
Nationality: Polish  
Age: 33  
Arrived from: Legia Warsaw to Aston Villa (£200,000) August 1991. Switched to Sunderland for £100,000 in March 1994.

**DAVID BATTY**  
Defender  
Nationality: Polish  
Age: 33  
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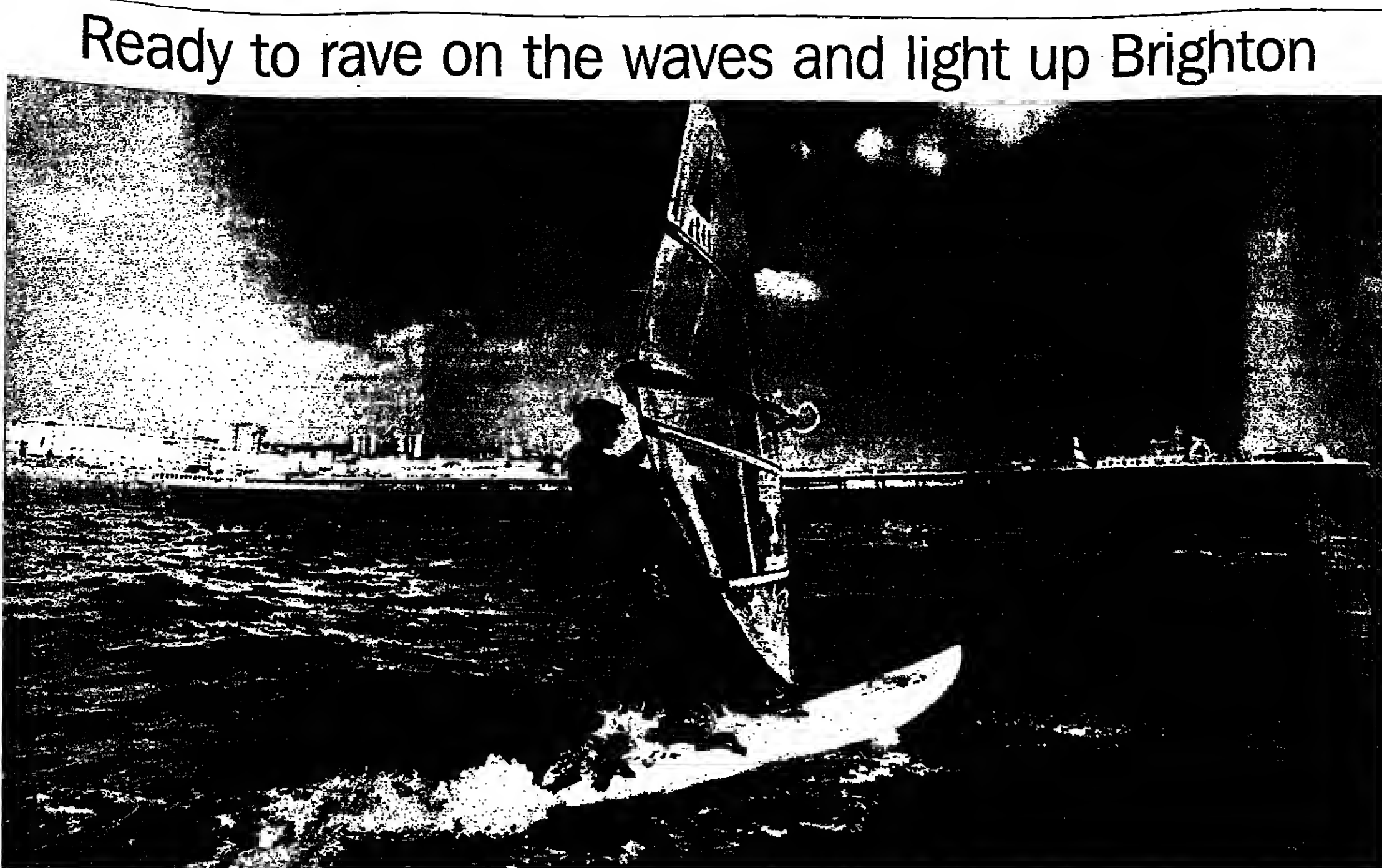








Hidden Personality  
Since then he has removed most of the hair from his head, put rings through his ears and dressed more outlandishly by the year.



Nik Baker, the United Kingdom No 1, tests the waters off Brighton before today's start of the British leg of the Windsurfing World Cup

Photograph: David Ashdown

# Ready to rave on the waves and light up Brighton

## Farrell picks up the top award

Rugby League  
DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan's captain, Andy Farrell, who will lead Great Britain on tour this autumn, has earned the top individual award of the season as the Sportsman of the Year. Farrell received his award at the annual dinner in Manchester last night, while three representatives of St Helens, Wigan's opponents in the Premiership final this Sunday, also collected accolades.

Bobbie Goulding was voted Fans' Player of the Year, Keiron Cunningham, Young Player of the Year, and Shaun McRae, Coach of the Year, after guiding Saints to a Challenge Cup and Championship double in his first season in charge.

Robbie Paul of the Bradford Bulls is the Stoores Super League Player of the Year, based on the votes of his fellow professionals, with Nathan McAvoy of Salford and Hull KR's Papua New Guinean scrum-half, Stanley Gene, winning the equivalent awards for the First and Second Divisions.

The Bradford hooker, James Lowe, and St Helens' centre, Alan Hunte, have been called up as the first two reinforcements for Great Britain's tour of the southern hemisphere, which begins later this month.

Lowe and Hunte are direct replacements for Lee Jackson and Gary Connolly, both of whom are being prevented from touring by their contracts with the Australian Rugby League.

## Drugs storm brews in a teacup

**Athletics**  
Athletes have been warned to stop drinking tea and coffee around competitions to avoid the risk of being banned for doping. The German athletics federation has revised its recommendations on refreshments after studying the case of a minor athlete who failed a drug test after drinking coffee.

"No tea or coffee should be drunk at all from before the start of a competition to the time when an athlete provides urine for a doping sample," said the federation, who want to discuss the controversial area of sports medicine with the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The decision to change the advice to athletes was made after the federation studied the case of a long jumper, Astrid Mannes, who tested positive for caffeine at a minor meeting last year. Mannes claimed she drank only two cups of coffee before the event.

Medical checks on the athlete, who is particularly light in weight, showed that high levels of caffeine could appear in her urine after only a small intake of coffee.

## Athletics

Kenya's world record holders Nouredine Morceli and Daniel Komen confirmed yesterday they will take part in Monday's track meet at Sarajevo, the first major sports event to take place in the city since the war ended in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Organisers of the Sarajevo Meeting for Sarajevo say that Michael Johnson, the 200 and 400 metres world and Olympic champion, also will be among the 120-130 athletes in the rebuilt Olympic stadium along with the Olympic High Jump champion, Charles Austin.

## Baseball

David Cone made a triumphant return from a four-month absence caused by an arm injury in his first start, pitching seven innings for the New York Yankees as they won a 6-5 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday.

Yankees coach with two outs of a combined no-hitter in a 5-0 one-inning victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday.

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## RACING RESULTS

**POINTEFRAC**  
2.45: 1. AURUM (M. Gifford) 13-8 fav. 2. Muck Trail 5-2; 3. Snow Palace 6-3; 4. B. 15-10; 5. W. 15-10; 6. C. 15-10; 7. 15-10; 8. 15-10; 9. 15-10; 10. 15-10; 11. 15-10; 12. 15-10; 13. 15-10; 14. 15-10; 15. 15-10; 16. 15-10; 17. 15-10; 18. 15-10; 19. 15-10; 20. 15-10; 21. 15-10; 22. 15-10; 23. 15-10; 24. 15-10; 25. 15-10; 26. 15-10; 27. 15-10; 28. 15-10; 29. 15-10; 30. 15-10; 31. 15-10; 32. 15-10; 33. 15-10; 34. 15-10; 35. 15-10; 36. 15-10; 37. 15-10; 38. 15-10; 39. 15-10; 40. 15-10; 41. 15-10; 42. 15-10; 43. 15-10; 44. 15-10; 45. 15-10; 46. 15-10; 47. 15-10; 48. 15-10; 49. 15-10; 50. 15-10; 51. 15-10; 52. 15-10; 53. 15-10; 54. 15-10; 55. 15-10; 56. 15-10; 57. 15-10; 58. 15-10; 59. 15-10; 60. 15-10; 61. 15-10; 62. 15-10; 63. 15-10; 64. 15-10; 65. 15-10; 66. 15-10; 67. 15-10; 68. 15-10; 69. 15-10; 70. 15-10; 71. 15-10; 72. 15-10; 73. 15-10; 74. 15-10; 75. 15-10; 76. 15-10; 77. 15-10; 78. 15-10; 79. 15-10; 80. 15-10; 81. 15-10; 82. 15-10; 83. 15-10; 84. 15-10; 85. 15-10; 86. 15-10; 87. 15-10; 88. 15-10; 89. 15-10; 90. 15-10; 91. 15-10; 92. 15-10; 93. 15-10; 94. 15-10; 95. 15-10; 96. 15-10; 97. 15-10; 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THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAYPHILIPS  
Let's make things better

## FANTASY FOOTBALL

Latest results and your chance to register



Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 3 (Wk 3) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 26 August - Sunday 1 September inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 1 September.

A league of the top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers will be published weekly after the close of the registration period, when all entries have been received.

If you have not yet registered or if you would like to pick a new team, then it's not too late. See below for details on how to enter and how you could win tickets to the '98 World Cup or qualifying games.

## PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has scored more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

## HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

- FORMATION A. 4-4-2**  
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers  
**FORMATION B. 4-3-3**  
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers  
**FORMATION C. 5-3-2**  
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers  
**FORMATION D. 3-5-2**  
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.



Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phone line carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

## HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads

directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

## Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		
PIN No.		
Total £		

Team Name:

## POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244 (tone)

UK 0891-252-234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.  
Republic of Ireland calls cost 58p per minute including VAT at all times.  
Maximum call length 6.5 minutes.

## TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE				
			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			
GOALKEEPERS																							
341	Seaman	ARS	0	11	5.9	453	Unsworth	EVE	0	14	3.0	580	Pearce	WIM	0	0	2.2	686	Clark	NEW	0	2	3.0
303	Bornick	AV	0	0	4.0	459	Hortiger	EVE	0	0	2.2	583	Reeves	WIM	0	0	1.8	687	Woon	NOT	0	3	3.4
304	Flowers	BLA	0	3	5.2	460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0	13	1.9	584	Thorn	WIM	0	0	1.8	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	0	3	3.6
305	Khurin	CHE	0	15	3.7	463	Johsen	LEE	5	7	2.7	585	Thatcher	WIM	0	1	2.7	689	Stone	NOT	0	1	5.0
306	Hitchcock	CHE	0	0	1.5	464	Kelly	LEE	5	7	3.6	690	Gemmell	NOT	0	1	3.0	691	Stone	NOT	0	1	5.0
307	Ogryzic	COV	0	2	2.2	465	Wetherall	LEE	5	7	3.5	692	Parker	LEE	0	1	2.5	693	Scholes	MU	0	6	8.1
308	Filip	COV	0	0	1.5	466	Dorigo	LEE	0	0	3.2	694	Taylor	LEE	0	6	1.6	694	Cole	MU	0	0	6.2
309	Southall	EVE	0	10	3.0	467	Frederickson	LEE	0	0	1.2	695	Lazert	LEE	0	2	2.1	695	Forstot	MID	0	0	3.1
310	Martyn	LEE	5	7	3.3	468	Walsh	LEE	0	6	2.2	696	Waddie	SW	0	0	2.7	696	Ravennell	MID	0	15	8.0
311	James	LIV	0	11	4.7	469	Grayson	LEE	0	7	2.2	697	Blinker	SW	0	8	2.2	697	Barnby	MID	0	3	6.7
312	Poole	LEE	0	0	1.5	470	Whidow	LEE	0	7	1.2	698	Jones	SW	0	0	2.0	697	Boardley	NEW	0	1	4.4
313	Houli	DER	0	3	1.6	471	Watts	LEE	0	7	1.6	699	Hyde	SW	0	2	1.8	698	Asprilla	NEW	0	2	7.7
314	Schmeichel	MU	0	6	5.5	472	Babb	LIV	0	11	3.7	700	Magilton	SOT	0	3	2.4	699	Ferdinand	NEW	0	3	8.6
315	Walsh	MID	0	0	3.0	473	Jones (R)	LIV	0	0	2.7	701	Verdon	SOT	0	1	2.7	700	Saunders	NOT	0	9	5.2
316	Srlec	NEW	0	6	3.7	474	Wright	LIV	0	10	2.8	702	Heaney	SOT	0	7	2.2	701	Roy	NOT	0	0	4.8
317	Hisp	NEW	0	1	3.7	475	Raddock	LIV	0	0	3.0	703	Gray	SUN	0	7	3.0	702	Campbell	NOT	0	14	3.1
318	Crosley	NOT	0	7	2.7	476	Scates	LIV	0	0	4.4	704	Roe	SUN	0	0	2.7	703	Booth	SW	0	8	4.4
319	Wright	NOT	0	0	1.3	477	Harkness	LIV	0	0	2.2	705	Agnew	SUN	0	0	2.7	704	Ernst	SW	0	0	5.5
320	Bessant	SOT	0	7	1.8	478	Neville (G)	MU	0	1	3.7	706	Anderson	TOT	0	2	4.7	705	Bright	SW	0	0	2.5
321	Prentice	SW	0	7	2.7	479	Neville (P)	MU	0	7	1.7	707	Fox	TOT	0	4	3.6	706	Le Tissier	SOT	0	5	7.0
322	Coton	SUN	0	11	1.8	480	Irwin	MU	0	11	4.1	708	Howells	TOT	0	2	3.2	707	Shipperley	SOT	0	3	3.7
323	Walker	TOT	0	11	3.4	481	Pullister	MU	0	7	4.9	709	Sieros	TOT	0	2	3.0	708	Mason	SOT	0	2	2.2
324	Mikolaj	WH	0	3	3.0	482	May	MU	0	7	3.0	710	Williams	WH	0	3	3.6	709	Kelly	SUN	0	1	2.1
325	Sullivan	WIM	1	3	1.8	483	Vickers	MID	0	3	2.2	711	Thomson	WH	0	1	3.7	710	Stewart	SUN	0	1	2.3
DEFENDERS																							
400	Dixon	ARS	0	11	3.1	490	Gox	MID	0	3	2.5	640	Richardson	COV	0	1	2.4	711	Sheringham	TOT	0	7	7.4
401	Winterburn	ARS	0	13	3.1	491	Albert	NEW	0	5	4.1	641	McAllister	COV	0	6	3.0	712	Armstrong	TOT	0	11	5.9
402	Bould	ARS	0	10	3.0	492	Howey	NEW	0	7	3.7	642	Jess	COV	0	3	2.2	713	Rosenthal	TOT	0	2	2.1
403	Adams	ARS	0	0	5.3	493	Peacock	NEW	0	0	3.0	643	Stuart	EVE	0	2	1.5	714	Fare	WH	0	5	4.0
404	Keown	ARS	0	11	3.7	494	Pearce	NOT	0	9	3.4	644	Grant	EVE	0	2	2.2	715	Ragacianni	WH	0	1	5.1
405	Stanton	AV	0	11	3.0	495	Barton	NEW	0	0	3.3	645	Boyer	LEE	0	10	3.0	716	Dowie	WH	0	2	3.3
406	Southgate	AV	0	16	5.2	496	Beresford	NEW	0	0	2.2	646	Waller	LEE	0	0	1.9	717	Hodgson	WIM	0	2	4.5
407	McGrath	AV	0	0	3.0	497	Cooper	NOT	0	7	3.0	647	Palmer	LEE	0	2	3.0	718	Kendall	WIM	1	1	3.2
408	Ehigbo	AV	0	11	3.0	498	Chettle	NOT	0	3	2.4	648	Burns	LIV	0	7	3.0	719	Ekoku	WIM	1	2	2.7
409	Wright	AV	0	11	3.4	499	Jordan	NOT	0	6	2.9	649	Redmond	LIV	0	0	5.2	STRIKERS					
410	Tiler	AV	0	0	1.2	500	Lytle	NOT	0	0	1.8	650	McAlister	LIV	0	6	3.7	800	Bergkamp	ARS	0	10	7.0
411	Berg	BLA	0	3	3.4	501	Pearce	NOT	0	9	3.4	651	Thomas	LIV	0	3	3.0	801	Hughton	ARS	0	7	7.2
412	Le Saux	BLA	0	0	4.0	502	Monkous	SOT	0	0	2.5	652	Giggs	MU	0	2	7.4	802	Hughton	ARS	0	5	3.7
413	Coleman	BLA	0	2	3.7	503	Dodd	SOT	0	6	2.2	653	Beckham	MU	0	10	5.2	803	Worrie	ARS	0	1	6.2
414	Handy	BLA	0	3	4.4	504	Benali	SOT	0	4	2.2	654	Kennet	MU	0	4	6.5	804	Worrie	ARS	0	0	6.4
415	Kenna	BLA	0	3	1.9	505	Charlton	SOT	0	7	4.9	655	Burr	MU	0	5	4.5	805	Robson	LIV	0	5	9.0
416	Duberry	CHE	0	0	3.0	506	Nolan	SW	0	7	4.9	656	Juninho	MID	0	7	5.9	806	Rice	ARS	0	0	6.0
417	Petrescu	CHE	0	15	3.0	507	Ahern	SW	0	21	1.9	657	Emerson	MID	0	3	4.4	807	Royce	EVE	0	5	5.5
418	Phelan	CHE	0	0	1.9	508	Walsh	SW	0	9	1.6	658	Hignett	MID	0	0	2.5	808	Harford	BLA	0	1	5.5
419	Lebeuf	CHE	0	18	4.4	509	Stefanovic	SW	0	10	2.2	659	Moore	MID	0	1	1.2	809	Ennace	TOT	0	5	5.0
420	Shedden	CHE	0	10	2.2	510	Melville	SUN	0	10	2.2	660	Lee	NEW	0	3	3.6	810	Widness	LEE	3	4	3.5
421	Minto	CHE	0	10	1.3	511	Rubicki	SUN	0	10	2.2	661	Barty	NEW	0	7	4.5	811	Redknapp	WH	0	4	3.5
422	Dalish	COV	0	2	2.7	512	Ball	SUN	0	10	2.2	662	Gillespie	NEW	0	2	4.0	812	Gullit	CHE	0	7	4.5
423	Shaw	COV	0	2	2.2	513	Campbell	TOT	0	11	3.7	663	Ginola	NEW	0	3	4.2	813	Clark	NOT	0	4	3.3
424	Burrows	COV	0	1	2.2	514	Calderwood	TOT	0	10	2.9	664	Clark	NEW	0	2	3.0	814	Robson	MID	0	4	4.5
425	Stimac	DER	0	4	3.3	515	Austin	TOT	0	10	2.2	665	Reid	SUN	0	5	2.0	815	Reid	SUN	0	5	2.0
426	Powell (C)	DER	0	9	1.8	516	Edinburgh	TOT	0	5	2.7	666	Souness	SOT	0	5	5.0	816	Souness	SOT	0	5	5.0
427	Wassall	DER	0	0	2.2	517	Maitland	TOT	0	10	1.6	667	O'Neill	LEE	0	1	2.3	817	Smith	DER	0	2	2.0
428	Short	EVE	0	10	3.0	518	Dickie	WH	0	8	3.5	668	Kinnear	WIM	0	0	2.2	818	Kinnear	WIM	0	0	2.2
429	Skilton	EVE	0	5	2.7	519	Bilic	WH	0	2	3.7	669	Little	COV	0	1	4.0	819	Little	COV	0	1	4.0
						520	Rieper	WH	0	7	2.7	670	Pleat	SW	0	9	3.5						
						521	Hall	WH	0	0	1												
						522	Bowen	WH	0	1	2.2												
* Currently out of management Scores are subject to FA confirmation																							



# The ultimate roller-coaster ride

SO YOU WANT TO...  
GO SKYDIVING

By Jason Gee



**T**here was a time when sending someone on a parachute jump was considered exhilarating enough. But in the era of extreme sports, the PR gurus have been called in to make the image that bit more sexy. "Tandem skydive", "accelerated freefall", whatever the name is now, I was keen to take the plunge.

The order came in from the Independent HQ that I was to report to RAF Weston-on-the-Green, in Oxfordshire, at 1500hrs precisely, be pinned to the front of a British Parachute Association instructor with a slightly suspect sense of humour, thrown out of a plane at 12,000 feet, freefall at 125mph, and land on a postage stamp to tell the tale.

In the days before, my editor apologised for giving me what he felt was a dangerous assignment: friends taunted me with urban myths about faulty parachutes and splattered bodies; and my girlfriend insisted that I phoned her as soon as I landed. Everyone around me was willing under the pressure, exaggerating the risks of what is a supremely thrilling, yet entirely safe experience.

The requirements for a tandem jump are simple: three forms need signing (declaring your fitness, an indemnity to the club, and third-party insurance), 20 minutes of training concentrating on equipment and your shape in the air, and some final tips to ensure that nothing takes you by surprise. The whole event is organised with military precision and is made so straightforward that fear ceases to be an appropriate sensation.

The training involves the instructor (in my case the 6ft 3in colossus Dave Luke) explaining that the equipment is fail-safe, with so many back-up parachutes that he appeared to have enough material strapped to his back to carpet a small island. He further settles your nerves by explaining the workings of a pressure meter that would automatically pull the parachute if he was "to fall asleep or something", punctuating the sentence with a maniacal smile.

Once kitted out in the regulation jumpsuit, body harness and a rather ridiculous looking leather skull cap, you are packed tightly into a small, twin-engined, BN Islander. Adrenaline is kept in check as the professionals aboard bark words of encouragement and lighten the mood: "Hey Dave, you stopped taking those pills yet?" "Is that other journalist you took up out of hospital yet?" It was lucky my harness was so tight, otherwise I fear all that military humour would have split my sides. At about 5,000 feet the first of my instructor's top tips came to life. The pressure change causes some people to

suffer problems with flatulence, and the apprentice freefaller next to me was clearly and unpleasantly a sufferer. Getting out of the aircraft seemed a more attractive proposition altogether.

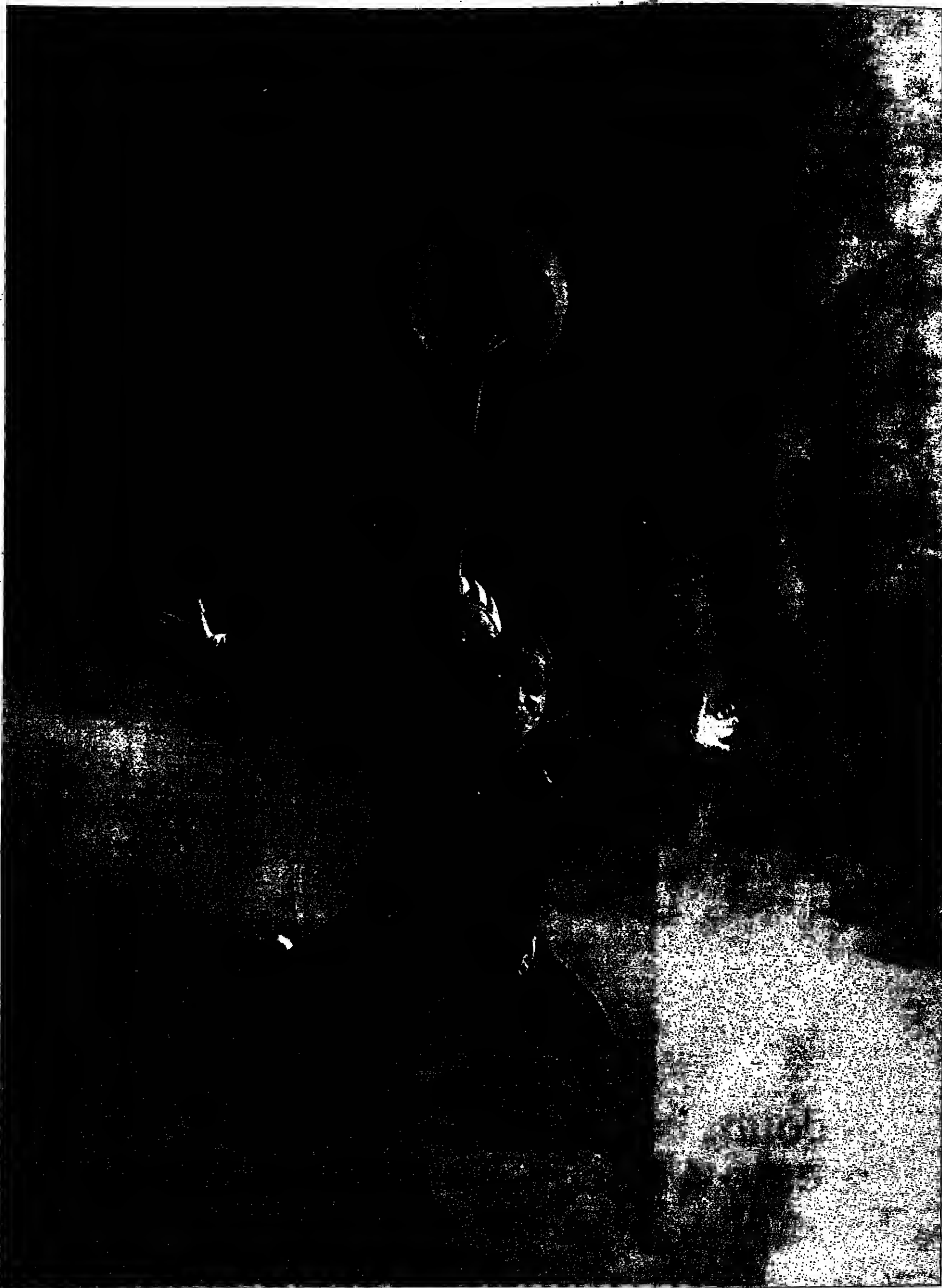
As people begin hurtling out of the door at 12,000 feet, the immensity of what you are doing hits home for a fraction of a second, but before you know it, you are falling head first towards the ground. With a professional on your back, there is no need to worry about technical details, you are free to enjoy the incredible sensation of hurtling down towards the Oxfordshire countryside. It is the ultimate roller-coaster ride: I felt myself screaming excitedly, but the roar of the wind is so loud that you can't hear your own cry. Forty seconds pass in a flash, and when the parachute pops out at about 5,000 feet the first thought is not one of relief but of annoyance that we can't squeeze out a few more seconds.

As the chute opens to break the fall, you are momentarily disorientated by a violent jerk upwards; it instantly reminds of top up number two. When Dave Luke was fitting the body harness on the ground, he was adamant that the leg straps fit snugly into the groin without trapping any part of the anatomy: "We've all done it once and it's not something you ever do a second time," he said. The eyes water at the mere thought.

The gentle journey down to earth was certainly peaceful and the countryside made a spectacular backdrop, but I couldn't help wondering what it would be like if I were to cut the strings and accelerate our progress towards the ground before engaging one of those ample back-up chutes. "Sky divers use the chutes just to stop them from hitting the ground, but some people really enjoy the tranquillity of floating," Dave Luke said to me after we had landed perfectly about 10 feet from the hut where we had filled out forms an hour before.

Immediately after peeling myself off my companion, I found myself walking around with a ridiculous smile on my face, being kissed by women who had come up to congratulate me on the jump, and shaking the hands of men around me in that kind of surfer-dude thumb grip that all sky-divers seem to use.

The elation wears off a little after a few days, but the dreams of floating through the air are still incredibly vivid. It was a very special experience: that feeling of flying above the clouds with absolutely no fear will live with me for ever. My advice is to organise it for someone as a one-off birthday or Christmas present - it's expensive, but extremely good value, because it is one gift that will never be discarded.



Look, no hands: Jason Gee takes to the air with the instructor Dave Luke firmly strapped to his back, trailing a drogue chute behind them

Photographs: Simon Ward



Final checks to the harness before take-off and the donning of skull caps

## Chute by chute: a guide to how and where you can jump to it

**Devon Parachute Club**  
Based at:  
RAF Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, OX5 1EF  
Telephone: 01235 840000  
Established: 1977  
Membership requirements: British Parachute Association (BPA) or equivalent  
Equipment: 100% new, 100% British  
Instructor: Dave Luke  
Jump prices: Tandem jump £115, solo jump £215 (includes ground school, transport, and insurance)  
Opening hours: Seven days a week 9am-6pm

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12,000 feet and falling: when sky and earth look more vivid than ever before



# Villeneuve poised to capitalise

**Derick Allsop**  
says Williams' split  
with Damon Hill  
may have handed  
the initiative to his  
championship rival

Jacques Villeneuve could be excused an extra rush of adrenaline in the wake of the revelation that Damon Hill will be unloaded by Williams-Renault at the end of the season. Nothing personal, you understand, but business is business.

The Williams team-mates are the only remaining contenders for the Formula One World Championship, and although Hill has an apparently comfortable lead of 13 points with only three races remaining, he may not be feeling as secure as he might have.

At the height of summer and his confidence, Hill held a 25-point advantage and he was seemingly content for the newspapers to splash stories of his demands for a substantial pay rise. He radiated self-belief and the conviction that he had arrived as a champion.

Since those heady days, the script has gone somewhat awry for the 35-year-old Englishman. A series of poor starts have undermined his control of the races and his emotions. Suddenly the old flaws were exposed again and he could not resist criticising errors by a team mopping up a record eighth constructors' championship.

There was renewed speculation about his future, that his position for next season might not be safe. Williams was said to have extended their option on the services of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the German driver long linked with them, and since Villeneuve was already under contract for 1997, it was clear where the threat hung.

All the time, too, Villeneuve was chipping away at his partner's lead. Hill's infamous dark countenance had returned.

Hill can push back the closing walls with victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza. He would become champion if, also, Villeneuve managed no better than fourth place. Hill says he is focused on the championship, and Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario, suggests recent events will have made him drive "harder and better" to achieve his goal.

But another driver takes the view, "Damon will be under so much pressure it could crack him. What's happened to him will be screwing his mind."

Villeneuve, by contrast, will doubtless be even more chirpy than usual. He must feel he has gained a little additional psychological leverage this past week, and will endeavour to exploit it.



Team talk: Jacques Villeneuve (top) discusses tactics for the present season with his Williams-Renault boss, Frank Williams, while Damon Hill (below) talks of the future with Eddie Jordan, head of the Jordan racing team

Others say that he had to be a tough cookie to make his own way in racing, and the world beyond, moving as he did to Japan and pretty well different to the rest of the grand prix drivers.

This 25-year-old French-Canadian, in his first season of Formula One, has sent out a message that says: "I am me. If you don't like it, tough." There are those who suspect his quest to appear natural and individualistic betrays an entirely unnatural and hackneyed show; a yearning for effect and attention.

It could well be that his determination to be his own man, rather than the son of that much loved daredevil Gilles Villeneuve, has driven him to extreme measures. His unwillingness to be drawn into reverential reminiscences of his late father have offended some seasoned observers of the sport.

He has an obsession for denim: jeans surgically restructured, jackets intended for giants, dungarees you can only surmise were purloined from the paint shop. "He certainly doesn't spend his money on clothes," one of his rivals dryly commented. That is precisely

**You sense psychological pressures would wash over Villeneuve. He is a distinctly different animal to Hill**

the image he wishes to project, of course. It also happens to be quite refreshing in the increasingly regimented world of Formula One, a bit of fun he is patiently prepared to share.

Similarly novel and appreciated is his frankness. There is nothing pretentious or convoluted in his responses to straight

questions. If he makes a mistake, he owns up to it. If the team makes a mistake, he does not turn it into a drama — another area where he has clawed back points from Hill.

None of this, however, has anything to do with racing. So how good is he behind the wheel of a Formula One car? The short answer is that we do not know. Partly because he is in the best Formula One car and partly because he is partnering Hill, and no one can be sure how good he is.

As Eddie Irvine, the Ulsterman partnering Michael Schumacher at Ferrari, recently said: "We'll not know how good Damon is until he gets into a bad car." That may come as soon as next season. Hill is still not highly rated among the other drivers. "Pretty good, but nothing special" just about sums up the general assessment.

That being the case, it does not say much for Villeneuve. It may well be his debut season after arriving from Indycars, but most of the tracks are new to him and there is no doubt he will be all the better for the experience next year.

But you would have to conclude that since he has been consistently outpaced by Hill, he, too, has to be "nothing special". Certainly not another Schumacher. Many reckon Frentzen was quicker than Schumacher earlier in his career and, if there is a grain of truth in that, then we should be able to gauge Villeneuve's ability next season when he works alongside the "other" German.

In the meantime, Villeneuve and Hill have a little business to attend to in Italy, and possibly in Portugal and Japan, before the end of this season. Nothing personal, mind.

## Five first-season wonders of Formula One

Jacques Villeneuve

**Year:** 1996  
**Team:** Williams-Renault  
**Position in debut race:** 2nd  
**Finishes in top six so far:** Three  
**Wins:** Two 2nd places, two 3rd places  
**Finishing position in championship:** 1st of 2nd

Like Damon Hill the son of a famous father, Jacques Villeneuve impressed instantly on his F1 debut in Melbourne, leading from pole position until he was damaged on a pit stop after sliding over a kerb. With three victories, five second places and two thirds to his credit so far this season, he is without question the most impressive debut year of any driver since the World Championship was inaugurated in 1950, but against that must be balanced the 7,000km of pre-season testing that he undertook and the utterly dominant nature of the Williams-Renault in an era when technology rules.

Emerson Fittipaldi

**Year:** 1970  
**Team:** Lotus  
**Position in debut race:** 5th  
**Finishes in top six so far:** One win, three 2nd places, two 4th places  
**Finishing position in championship:** 10th

Fittipaldi had only just graduated to Formula Two in 1970 when the Lotus chief Colin Chapman gave him his Formula One debut in Britain, where he brought an ageing Type 49 to eighth place. He was fourth next time out in Germany, then had leadership of the team thrust upon him when the World Champion-elect Jochen Rindt was killed. When Lotus regrouped for the American GP, Fittipaldi swept to a fortunate victory in the highly competitive Lotus 72.

Blessed with the perfect team for a racing driver, this Swiss charger was very fast in sports cars and Formula Two, but had a wild streak. When Enzo Ferrari gave him a trial at the Dutch GP in 1970, Regazzoni surprised everyone with a restrained drive to fourth place. In the highly competitive car he three times finished second to his team-mate Jackie Stewart, but the crowning point was a finely judged victory in the tactical sprint race at Monza, to the delight of Ferrari's fans.

Jackie Stewart

**Year:** 1965  
**Team:** BRM  
**Position in debut race:** 5th  
**Finishes in top six so far:** One win, three 2nd places, one 3rd place, one 5th place  
**Finishing position in championship:** 3rd

When Stewart brought his BRM home sixth on his Grand Prix debut in South Africa in 1965 it was clear that Scotland had another potential champion to challenge the great Jim Clark. As team-mate to Graham Hill, Formula Three graduate Stewart went on to finish second to Clark in Belgium, France and the Netherlands and third at Monaco.

Better still, he beat Hill at Monza to win his first of 27 Grands Prix, a record upon his retirement in 1973. After graduating from sports cars to Formula Junior single seater by 1960, this son of a wealthy Milanese industrialist was signed to drive in F1 for Ferrari for the Italian Grand Prix in 1961. Baggett distinguished himself by winning not just his two maiden non-championship races, but his first grand prix, the French, too. This feat has never been matched. It was a victory achieved in the best car after faster team-mates had failed, and thereafter the gentle Italian's career faded. After such a meteoric start, the only way to go was down.

Giancarlo Baghetti

**Year of debut:** 1961  
**Team:** Ferrari  
**Position in debut race:** 1st  
**Finishes in top six so far:** One win  
**Finishing position in championship:** 5th

After graduating from sports cars to Formula Junior single seater by 1960, this son of a wealthy Milanese industrialist was signed to drive in F1 for Ferrari for the Italian Grand Prix in 1961. Baggett distinguished himself by winning not just his two maiden non-championship races, but his first grand prix, the French, too. This feat has never been matched. It was a victory achieved in the best car after faster team-mates had failed, and thereafter the gentle Italian's career faded. After such a meteoric start, the only way to go was down.

When he regained his fitness, Lentini found it difficult to break into the team at Milan, where even his huge price tag did not guarantee a first-team place. Now, however, he is trying to relaunch his career at Atlanta, where he will play for a year on loan from Milan.

"I just want to go back to being the good player. I was before the accident," the 27-year-old said. Atlanta are coached by Emiliano Mondonico, his former coach at Torino. "Mondonico practically made me," Lentini said. "He gave me the chance to make my mark and I really hope I can keep my promises here."

**Mauritania**

When Mauritania, who had already been eliminated from the 1998 World Cup by Burkina Faso, were knocked out of the African Nations' Cup by Benin last week, their football federation took drastic action. The national team has been dissolved and this season's domestic league championship has been suspended.

"Since we have been eliminated on all fronts and the next commitments are not for another two years, we have good reason to take a break," the federation president, Mohamed Lemine Cheguir, said. Perhaps Scotland should consider something similar the next time they get beaten by the likes of Costa Rica.

**Rupert McCall**

## Self-doubt is Seldon's greatest enemy

"Bruce Seldon — no one knows him... that's because no one wants to." The implications of Mike Tyson's voice-over to the promotional video for this week-end's heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas is that Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, is dangerous to know. That may be the case for some, although probably not for one such as Iron Mike. But it would be entirely accurate to state that Seldon is hard to get to know.

The 29-year-old is not blessed with great communication skills. That is not to say he is inarticulate, just that he often chooses not to articulate. Seldon has suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous media coverage and wears his wounds like a badge. Interviews are often refused and he has been called "sensitive to the point of paranoia". He is, at least, complex.

Seldon served a four and a half year jail term for an armed robbery committed as a 16-year-old on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, outside a casino where his name would later appear in lights. "I was trying to decide whether crime was what I wanted to get into, but it wasn't," he said. Indeed, imprisonment turned his life around. While incarcerated he learned to box, winning the New Jersey state prison super-heavyweight title in 1986.

**Glyn Leach on the champion with the daunting task of facing Mike Tyson**

But the major spur to his rehabilitation and eventual success was the shame he felt in disappointing his mother. One of three children raised in a one-parent family, Seldon bitterly regrets that Joan Graham died before she could see her son become a world champion.

"As soon as he got back to the cemetery and laid the belt across her grave so she would know what he did," his manager, Rocco DePersia, a New Jersey lawyer, said.

Success came late for Seldon, and after several setbacks. He was 28 when he surprisingly stopped Tony Tucker to win the vacant WBA title in April 1995. While his attitude towards the media has softened as his championship reign has unfolded, his distrust is still apparent. Seldon recalls vividly how he was branded a weak-chinned waster after successive stoppages by Oliver McCall and Riddick Bowe in 1991, two of the three losses he has suffered in 36 fights.

"A lot of the print media are locked in a time zone of 1991, when Bruce had those two bad

fight," DePersia said. "Because Bruce hasn't been on TV the public haven't seen the way he has put his career back together."

It was a career that was going off the rails. Seldon was 18-0 as a professional before running into McCall, who used the victory as a springboard to the World Boxing Council championship. At the time, the pair were evenly matched — as party animals, if not as fighters. McCall's excesses are legend, but Seldon was once his equal. At 4am on the day he would fight McCall, Seldon could be found in a night club, having escaped through a window at his training camp. Unsurprisingly, he ran out of gas in the ninth round that evening.

Seldon was devastated by the defeat. McCall was nothing more than a sparring partner in those days and Seldon began to question his own worthiness to compete with top heavyweights. "And that played a major part in the Bowe fight," DePersia said. Bowe destroyed Seldon in one round and the career of the "Atlantic City Express", as Seldon is nicknamed, seemed to have been derailed. Seldon, for all his fabulously muscled physique, lacked the desire and the chin, the media decided.

Where some fighters can shrug off personal problems and self-doubt, Seldon appears



Seldon: Reluctant

unable to follow suit. Seldon's other loss, to Tony Tubbs, was his first fight after the death of his long-time trainer, Carmelo Graziano. Seldon argues that he was unable to focus under those circumstances.

Today, there appears to be an added maturity in the father of two sons who now lives in Gloucester township, New Jersey. Seldon has built a nine-fight unbeaten run since the defeat by Tubbs, all wins inside the distance. But now he faces by far his greatest test against Tyson, a 25-1 on favourite whose menacing aura can destroy all but the strongest psyches before a punch has been thrown.

DePersia says Seldon will not freeze, citing the WBA champion's prison experiences as evidence. "In a place of bad men, Bruce was one of the baddest," he said. But in the early hours of Sunday morning Seldon will come face to face with "The Baddest Man on the Planet", and his new-found self-belief will be put to the acid test.

## The final farewell for troubled Maradona?

**Argentina**

Diego Maradona, Argentina's football's tormented superstar, played what was billed as the last game of his controversial career in Toronto on Monday. The 35-year-old made a guest appearance alongside his brother, Lalo, for Toronto Italia in an exhibition match against an all-star team from the Canadian National Soccer League, and scored the decisive goal — direct from a corner — in a 2-1 win for his brother's club.

A capacity crowd of over 8,000, many of them from the Argentine immigrant community, packed the small Toronto stadium. When Maradona scored, he was engulfed by hundreds of pitch-invading fans who attempted unsuccessfully to carry away their hero. He was subsequently substituted and was on his way out of the stadium before the final whistle.

Maradona spent 10 days last month in a Geneva drug rehabilitation clinic. He went to Switzerland after abruptly leaving his last Argentine club, Boca Juniors, announcing that he wanted to quit drugs once and for all for the sake of his two daughters. His treatment in the clinic included sessions with psychiatrists aimed at reducing his "emotional overburdening". The clinic's director, Arto Van, said that Maradona was not a drug addict but simply cracked "at fatal moments" under the burden of his fame.



AROUND THE WORLD

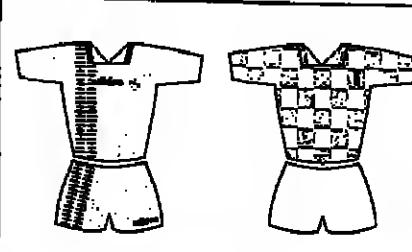
"This is the first step," the clinic's deputy director, Giovanni Spano, said of Maradona's treatment. "You can't change your life like you can change your socks. A full recovery will take time. He wants to quit — but the possibility of a relapse is always a reality."

**Italy**

Before Alan Shearer and Barcelona's new boy, Ronaldinho, both overtook him, Gianluigi Lentini, who cost Milan £13m in 1992, was the world's most expensive footballer. He was also one of the world's most rarely-seen players, after he suffered severe head injuries in a near-fatal car crash in 1993 which kept him out of the game for many months.

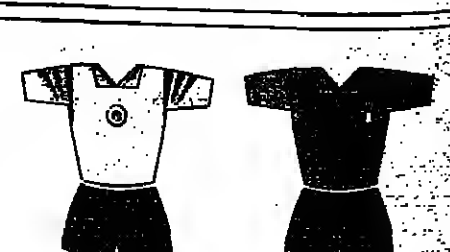


**Today's hidden personality**  
Ranked No 3 in the world, Andre Agassi has won three Grand Slam tennis titles, the Australian, Wimbledon and the US Open and reached four other Grand Slam finals. His major breakthrough came when he beat Goran Ivanisevic in the 1992 final at Wimbledon. Following that success his career hit a slump, but he turned to Brad Gilbert for coaching and his form made a dramatic improvement, culminating in victory at the US Open in 1994. This year he lost in the first round at Wimbledon to Doug Flach, a qualifier, but went on to win the Olympic singles title in Atlanta.



**WHEN HARRY MET PAULO, ILIE, SLAVEN AND STAN**

Redknapp broadens West Ham's horizons, Page 6



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